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JOHN BULL

Vol. XV. No. 395 | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1913. | ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see page iii. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

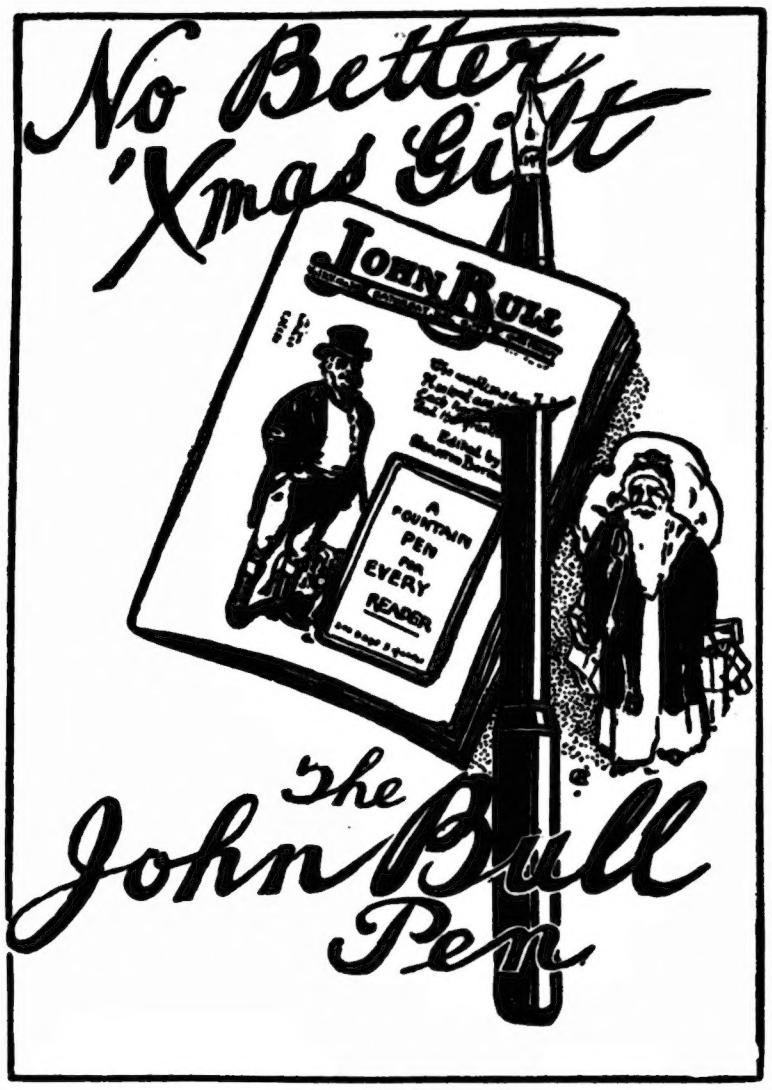
—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

£2,000 XMAS BOX

SEE PAGE 979.

SEE PAGE 979.



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MARY BULL.

EVERY FRIDAY. PRICE ONE PENNY.

FIRST READ THIS. If you predict the "Home" Team will win put in ink a **X** in the Home Column; if you predict the "Away" Team will win put a **X** in the Away Column. For Draws put a **X** in the Draw Column.

CUP TIE ENTRANCE FORM.

First Round to be played Saturday, Jan. 10.

HOME	AWAY	DRAW	HOME TEAM.		AWAY TEAM.
			Manchester City	v.	Fulham
			Newcastle United	v.	Sheffield United
			Queen's P.R. Ran.	v.	Bristol City
			Leicester Fosse	v.	'Spurs
			Preston N.E.	v.	Bristol Rovers
			Oldham	v.	Brighton
			Liverpool	v.	Barnsley
			Swindon	v.	Manchester United
			Derby County	v.	Northampton
			Bradford	v.	Reading
			Millwall	v.	Chelsea
			Crystal Palace	v.	Norwich
			West Bromwich A.	v.	Grimsby
			Wolverhampton W.	v.	Southampton
			Bradford City	v.	Arsenal
			Hull City	v.	Bury
			Gainsborough	v.	Leeds City
			Glossop	v.	Everton
			Sheffield Wed.	v.	Notts County
			Portsmouth	v.	Exeter

I enter "JOHN BULL" Football Competition in accordance with the rules announced on this page and agree to accept the Editor's published decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

7 **Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.**

READ RULES CAREFULLY.

NEW METHOD OF MARKING COUPON.

To safeguard the interest of our competitors we have adopted the following new rule for marking the Entrance Form:—If you predict the Home Team will win, put a **X** in the Home Column; if you give the Away Team to win put a **X** in the Away Column. For a Draw put a **X** in the Draw Column.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "John Bull," 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. mark envelope in top left-hand corner, **Football Cup Tie Coupon** so as to reach us not later than first post Friday, January 9th.

3. The sum of £2,000 will be paid to the Competitor whose entrance form contains the correct results, as published in the *Sporting Life*, of all the matches given played to a finish on January 10th. Should it happen that no entrance form be received giving the whole of the correct results, a cash prize of £600 will be paid to the Competitor sending in the most correct forecasts, whatever the number; £300 to the sender of the next best coupon, and £100 to the sender of the most correct forecasts on a mauve coupon taken from *Mary Bull*. If the sender of a mauve coupon should win or share the £2,000, or the £600 and £300, the *Mary Bull* prize will be awarded to the sender of the next most correct forecasts sent on a mauve coupon. In the event of the £2,000 prize being won the £600 and the £300 prizes will, of course, not be awarded. The £100 mauve coupon prize will be paid in any event.

4. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort. No correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted.

5. Any effort on which any alteration has been made will be disqualified.

6. In the event of a tie or ties in this Competition, the £2,000, or the contingent prizes of £600 and £300, as well as the special £100 mauve coupon Prize, will be equally divided.

7. Our employees are strictly debarred from entering this contest.

8. No coupon bearing a Scottish address can be accepted.

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 9th.

DUPLICATE COUPON.

The following duplicate list of the matches is printed solely for the convenience of competitors desirous of keeping a record of their efforts. It must on no account be sent in, and will not be accepted as proof of forecasts made on the Entrance Form.

H	A	D	TEAMS	H	A	D	TEAMS
			Manchester City v. Fulham				Millwall v. Chelsea
			Newcastle U. v. Sheffield U.				Crystal Palace v. Norwich
			Queen's P.R. v. Bristol City				W. Bromwich A. v. Grimsby
			Leicester Fosse. v. 'Spurs				Wolver.Wan.v.Southampt'n
			Preston N.E. v. Bristol R.				Bradford City v. Arsenal
			Oldham v. Brighton				Hull City v. Bury
			Liverpool v. Barnsley				Gainsborough v. Leeds C.
			Swindon v. Manchester U.				Glossop v. Everton
			Derby C. v. Northampton				Sheffield Wed. v. Notts C.
			Bradford v. Reading				Portsmouth v. Exeter

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XV. No. 395. Week ending Saturday, December 27th, 1913. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *inquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

All remittances, applications for advertising space, subscriptions, orders, etc., should be addressed to Odhams Limited, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.

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Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull" for DEC. 20th, 1913, bearing on its Cover the Number 368,472.

Apply THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

To Everybody.

We wish you a Merry Christmas. And do you know the best way to secure it? *Try to make it merry for the other fellow.* It is a certain winner. Try it.

Spreading the Gospel.

Will our dear contemporary, the *Daily News*, explain how it is that in its reprint of Mr. Lloyd George's Bedford Speech on the Land question not a word is to be found about those mangel wurzels and pheasants, or partridges, which played so important a part in the original harangue? Surely the omission of these woodland fancies is about the cruellest comment which has yet been made upon the Chancellor's campaign.

"If You See It——"

What did we tell you? The *dining* has begun! What do we mean? Listen to the *Daily Chronicle* and try to pretend you're surprised. Of course, it's about Home Rule.

> All that has happened is that in the present week two members of the Cabinet dined with two occupants of the Front Opposition Bench, and, after dinner, in informal talk, explored the situation to see whether a common basis of negotiation was possible.

Wherefore, ye politicians, cease your prattle. Put up your swords, ye martial braves. Let there be no sound of clashing arms or clattering tongues. Your leaders are dining—and wining—and talking sense for once. Peace and goodwill. Eat, drink, and be merry! —for to-morrow nobody will die after all.

The Best Short Stories.

Mr. Frank Harris considers that the best two short stories to be found in all the realms of literature are "The Woman Taken in Adultery" and "The Prodigal Son." And we respectfully agree with him. Say what you like, the Bible *is* a wonderful old book.

On the Horns of a Dilemma!

But whilst we are second to none in our appreciation of the literary, poetic and symbolic charm of the Bible, we *do* draw the line at its introduction to the sphere of political controversy. Thus we are bound to protest against the plea of the Revd. Silvester Horne, M.P., that the test of whether a measure should be placed upon the Statute Book is that it should "make clear appeal to the spirit and teaching of the Son of Man." This is not the time of year for theological controversy, otherwise we should like to apply this test to one or two measures for which the honourable and reverend gentleman has voted during the past few years. Other remarkable declarations of this square man in a round hole we will deal with anon.

The Sixpenny "John Bull."

Our thanks to *Truth* for its generous recognition of the fact that we are "alive to the necessity of keeping a strict watch against fraud" in connection with our Football Competitions. We also have to thank the many readers who have sent their congratulations on our frustration of the recent conspiracy.

The Stealers.

Thirty pairs of opera glasses hired out to dancers at the Picture Ball, at one shilling per pair, are missing. As the ball was held in aid of the Invalid Kitchens' Fund, and the glasses will have to be paid for at their actual value, we wish the committee many happy returns. Several of the dancers came late—and evidently stole away early.

The Churchill Conspiracy.

We should like to say something about the signs and portents of the coming rebellion against Mr. Churchill on the part of the Little Navy cranks of his Party. But it is Christmas week. We therefore content ourselves by suggesting that you should scan the names of the "rebels." There isn't one amongst them whom we should select for an invitation to our Christmas dinner!

An Answer to Prayer?

In a New Zealand newspaper just to hand we notice that "when the *Tyrone* was wrecked and the officers and men were saved a local (Dunedin) parson prayed earnestly that the cargo might be salved. And lo, the cargo was salved. It was mostly whisky." This appears to be a theological phenomenon for earnest investigation by the Church of England Temperance Society. We are too shocked to undertake it.

Once more the old sweet songs are sung—Once more the old sweet chimes are rung.

Legal Cruelty.

The anomaly of the existing divorce laws is perhaps nowhere more strikingly illustrated than in the almost ridiculous straits to which aggrieved women are frequently reduced in their efforts to prove cruelty on the part of an adulterous husband. The present President of the Divorce Division has taken a somewhat sterner view of the requirements of the law in this particular than was held by his predecessor, who, as later events have shown, was a firm believer in the necessity of reform. Merciless abuse, outrageous insult, and even a show of violence have been held insufficient to support allegations of cruelty, while proof of spitting in a woman's face, or pelting her with champagne corks has been permitted to succeed. Yet the lash of venomed speech and the bitter sting of shame may be immeasurably more cruel than a physical blow. In any case it is surely a monstrous thing that a wife who appeals to the Courts for release from a living hell should be told, in effect, to go home and request her lawless lord to comply with the form of punching her head.

The Wrong Sow.

By the way, the suffragettes and the newspapers and a lot of other people, are entirely wrong in ascribing Mrs. Pankhurst's occasional visits to prison to the operation of the Prisoners' Temporary Discharge Act, known less formally as the "Cat and-Mouse" Act. She has been sentenced to a term of penal servitude, and might have been dealt with in precisely similar fashion had the measure in question never been passed. She is released from time to time by virtue of the ticket-of-leave system, which is almost as old as the form of punishment to which it attaches. Mr. McKenna's measure was introduced to meet the case of women sentenced to shorter terms of hard labour, to whom the existing facilities for re-arrest did not apply. In practice, the distinction makes little difference, but accuracy is a jewel—especially in matters legal.

Dangerous Sparks.

There seems to be no ground for imputing political significance to the murderous attack upon Sir Lionel Phillips, the Rand magnate and multi-millionaire, who was recently shot in the streets of Johannesburg. Sir Lionel's assailant was a malcontent Russian storekeeper, who, fired by some trumpery personal grievance, had sought vengeance along Nihilist lines. From a public standpoint, the danger of such incidents consists in the readiness with which they may serve to inflame the combustible elements which, despite official assurances, are still rife in the mining capital and, indeed, throughout the Rand. General Botha, with Hertzog vexing his flank, is confronted with a task which may well prove too great for his untaught statecraft. There is a growing feeling that South Africa was let off the Imperial leading-strings just a little too soon.

Leisurely Justice.

A debtor at the Wandsworth County Court, from whom the Postmaster-General claimed £8 19s. for telephone rent and calls, has been ordered by Judge Harington to discharge his liability at the rate of 2s. per month. At this leisurely rate of progress, the defendant will be "out of the wood" somewhere towards the end of 1921. We trust that P.M.G. may not be unduly piqued by this signal instance of the law's delays, in which, when all is said we discern a measure of poetic justice. In view of certain recent circumstances, it is long odds that had the debtor preferred a similar claim against his Majesty's Post Office, he might have whistled for payment from now till the crack of doom.

A Dire Dilemma.

Lord Hardinge's bold and eloquent plea for an inquiry into the grievances of the Indian natives in Natal remains unanswered, and it is doubtful whether the deep significance of his weighty utterance has been adequately realised, either at Pretoria or nearer home. The difficulties of the Imperial Government are enhanced by the knowledge that anything in the nature of interference at the present juncture would lend sinister advantage to the Hertzog faction, and thus precipitate wider reaction against British rule. Yet the Indian case, as presented by Lord Hardinge, is well nigh unanswerable, and must carry instant conviction to a Government ostentatiously committed to high constitutional ideals. The cynical may derive sorry amusement from recalling the days when Radical orators assailed high heaven with lamentation over the woes of John Chinaman, who, though doubtless a man and a brother, wasn't even a British subject and had no potent Viceroy to thunder, *Civis Britannicus sum!*

A Job for the B. G.

Scarcely a week passes without argument in the Court of Appeal, or even in the House of Lords, of legal points arising under the Workmen's Compensation Act. County Court judges are apt to have greater regard to the plain equity of a given situation rather than to the legal refinements by which it may be governed, and it thus frequently happens that decisions which embody substantial justice are over-ridden on appeal. Yet the Appellate Courts are virtually closed to the poor workman, while employers are frequently willing to spend freely of their substance rather than accept a decision which may serve as a costly precedent. The volume of litigation flowing from this single source is simply appalling. There is an overwhelming case for the simplification of the Act's procedure, and the clarification of certain of its more contested provisions might well be attempted at the same time. Where is the Labour Party?

A Word to the P.M.G.

Several lamentable instances of maladministration in the telephone service have recently come to light. In one case, owing to some trifling mishap to an instrument, an important nursing home in the West End of London was cut off from immediate communication with doctors and others for two whole nights and a day, repeated appeals to the Department having failed to elicit any effective response. Such incidents, and they might be multiplied, point to a chronic state of disorganisation. Meanwhile, we note that the Corporation of Hull has discussed the desirability of buying out the local Post Office service with a view to its more efficient administration along municipal lines. It is "up to" Mr. Samuel to afford subscribers a substantial earnest of improved management in the near future.

A Luckless Luck.

At this season of the year, when memories of the great novelist are peculiarly rife, it is distressing to learn that a lock of Charles Dickens's hair has been "held up" by the New York customs authorities as a species of contraband. The consignee has been politely informed that while "antiquities" are on the free list, the item in question is of far too recent origin to be placed in this category, and must therefore be subject to duty as "human hair," as though it were intended for one or other of the ingenious artifices whereby skilful coiffeurs have sought to embellish woman's crowning glory. In view of all the circumstances, they have expressed their willingness to release the trophy on payment of a trifle of £14. All of which goes to show that a customs official may also be an ass.

Once more 'tis Christmastide, once more—The singers pass from door to door.

Christmas in Canada.

Day by day Canadian letters arrive from those who believed us not that the truth about the Great Emigration Lie was as we have stated it. It will be a terrible Christmas for thousands in Canada, this of 1913. According to Mr. W. Hammond past President of the Building Trades Council, over 17,000 men are out of employment in Winnipeg alone. "He arrives at his figures," says the *Winnipeg Tribune*, "by a consideration of trades unionists now idle. He says 25,000 will be idle by Christmas. There are in Winnipeg over 13,000 trades unionists. Over 50 per cent. of these are idle. These men have helpers amounting to at least a number equal to their own. That makes nearly 14,000; and he estimates that, conservatively speaking, there are 3,500 other idle men in the city—clerks, office men, etc., railway construction men, and labourers." All over Canada is told a similar story of towns and cities crowded with unemployed. Notwithstanding all our warnings and the warnings of our correspondents, notwithstanding our and their exposure of the wicked lures and lies and sophistications of bonus-paid emigration agents and societies, and reckless encouragement of emigration on the part of Canadian officials, the tide of folly has swept on, with the result at last that the Dominion Government, as we have already stated, have prohibited until next March the entry of all emigrant artisans and labourers into British Columbia. We say deliberately that Canada will not be able to absorb its surplus labour for several years to come, unless a miracle happens. In ninety cases out of a hundred, "success" at best means nothing more than employment of the hardest, unwonted and uncongenial kind in summer to pay for food and shelter in winter—a winter with the freezing point 40 or 50 degrees below zero. The foolish will not heed warnings. They must go their way and learn their lesson as they will. The others should keep a stout heart, a willing hand, and a sharp look-out—and stay at home.

Our Dumb Friends.

We have nominated Our Dumb Friends' League for £50 out of the "JOHN BULL Football Cup Sweepstake" Charity Fund. A few weeks ago a favourite racehorse of ours met with a somewhat serious accident when at exercise at Kempton Park. The poor creature was in great pain and we were anxious to get it home. But it was too bad to travel by rail, and the journey was too long for ordinary road conveyance. Then somebody told us of the League, and in a few hours our equine friend was comfortably fixed up in a splendid rubber-tyred ambulance, presented and specially designed, we believe, by Mr. Alfred Vanderbilt. And some day "Silver Cherry" will again be showing her heels to her opponents! Wherefore, £50 for the League and three cheers for Mr. Vanderbilt. And if at this Christmastide you would like to do one more kindly act, just send a cheque or postal order to the Secretary of the League, Mr. Arthur J. Coke, 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Dudley's Great Tea Fight.

What often happens has happened again; one Parish Magazine leads to another. Under the heading "Enjoyment for Christmas Holidays," we perceive in the magazine of St. John's, Dudley, that the parish will "go in for some sober merriment" on December 27th, "in the shape of a grand tea and entertainment"; tickets, one shilling each and "no half-price to children, as they eat so much." The parson at St. John's has the gift of observation; or peradventure he is the father of nine and has to be ready for Mr. Lloyd George when that gentleman comes round for the collection.

Pain as Punishment.

The Dismal Dean is out again. Speaking at the Charity Organisation Society's meeting a day or two ago, Dr. Inge propounded the view that people must not shirk pain. "It was part of God's order of things," he declared, "to show man his faults and blunders. It was a sentinel to warn us that something was wrong, and therefore was beneficial." We suppose this is the best explanation theology has to offer, and if pain were always inflicted upon people who deserved it, when they deserved it, the problem would not puzzle us at all. The trouble is that Dean Inge does not explain how on this theological theory so many people who deserve pain never suffer any, and so many who do not deserve it suffer it all their lives. Any hospital surgeon or physician will tell them that pain comes to thousands on thousands of men and women, and even children, not because of their "faults and blunders," but through chance or misfortune. Some are born to it; others can't help it; and surely a Dean of St. Paul's could never do anything wicked enough or foolish enough to deserve, for instance, even toothache. He may at times do something to prevent it, as did the careful Bishop at the diocesan conference when he found a window open behind him. "Waiter," he said, "do you mind closing the window behind me and opening one near the neck of some young curate?" What piffle these professional pietarians do talk.

Sauce for the Goose.

Mere males, who may have suffered self-reproach on reading the diatribes upon women's wrongs, may derive some comfort from a consideration of certain recent incidents in the Courts. The Lord Chief Justice, voicing the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal, quashed the conviction and sentence of a woman who had stolen a suit of clothes, on the ground that her husband had shared in the nefarious transaction, and the law obligingly saddled him with the whole blame, so that she might go scot free. In another Court, a lady was sued for slander, her husband being joined as a co-defendant, although it was never suggested that the poor man had uttered a word amiss. Mr. Justice Darling explained to the jury that the husband had been dragged into the business in order that he might enjoy the extreme felicity of paying any damages which might be awarded against his wife. Such instances of the law's partiality towards the fair sex might be indefinitely multiplied. It is well that women who insistently clamour for "equality before the law" should make quite sure that they understand what they are shouting for.

Another Great Discovery.

Sir James Crichton-Browne is Britain's champion discoverer, nearly. About every other month he discovers something which nobody has ever placed before; in fact, he is only beaten by that other renowned gentleman of the *Lancet*, who discovers something fresh every week. Sir James's latest is that "in our large public schools to-day one might search in vain for the child out of which to build a Venus Medici or an Apollo Belvidere." This would be a horrible discovery if it were as awful as it looks, but seeing that the Apollo Belvidere is a marble statue, that Venus Medici was dug up about three centuries ago in eleven pieces and had to have a new right arm made to complete her anatomy, that both of them are stone dead, and that neither of them has had any other object in life for years except that of being exhibited in a museum, we don't seem to be losing much. Sir James will have to try again if he wishes to increase his laurels before the old year is out. Has he noticed that he isn't exactly a New Year's almanac himself?

Old friend, though you are far away—I wish you joy this Christmas Day!

Paupers and Smock Frocks.

Mr. W. W. Grantham, writing from Balneath Manor, near Lewes, in his capacity as a member of the Lewes Board of Guardians, regrets that we think it right to find fault with the Chairman, and those who voted with him in favour of smock frocks for paupers. "You say the wearing of smock frocks will label the aged inmates of the Union as paupers," he says, "but surely, Mr. John Bull, you have seen in your district some good old Sussex farmers and labourers so attired, and I am sure you never dreamed of damning them as paupers. When the annual sports and games for my tenants are held there are smock frocks for choice among the prizes, and I have always found they are rapidly taken. Nor did the crowds of people at the recent funerals of the late Mr. Christie and Mr. Davies Gilbert look upon the bearers who were wearing smock frocks in the light of paupers. If you, Mr. Bull, have never worn a smock frock, let me commend this garment to your favourable consideration for wearing in the country, and let me assure you that if you have one to fit, you will find it a useful and comfortable garment, as I have for now over twenty years." Mr. Grantham seems able to work up his enthusiasm for smock frocks almost to the point of religious ecstasy. It does not alter our view, however. The smock is for those who prefer it. The comedians and the caricaturists have long made it the typical garment of everything that is stupid and inane in agricultural life. In most towns in touch with the modernities its appearance is invariably a mark for passing wits, and we do not like the idea of exposing the poor to ridicule by compelling them to wear a garment which, except in the sleepiest and dullest of country villages where the squire rules the parson and the parson rules everybody else, is fast disappearing from human sight. In the course of two or three years it will hardly be found on anybody except scarecrows.

Bury the Dead.

To the ordinary Sassenach it seems scarcely credible that spoken Welsh should anywhere possess a commercial value, yet this is the extraordinary claim advanced by the Cymmrodorion Society, which recently petitioned the Swansea Education Committee to make Welsh a compulsory subject in its primary schools. The concession of such a demand would, we suppose, pave the way for the revival of Gaelic in Glasgow, and Erse in Dublin, and we are bound to say that we view the prospect with unfeigned horror. After all, for weal or for woe, we have become one nation to all practical intent. Common-sense surely dictates that tongues already moribund should be consigned to the limbo of a half-forgotten past except in so far as they may beguile the leisure of students of literary antiquities. If children have time to learn two languages at school, so much the better, but let them both be live ones.

What's the Remedy?

Quite recently we were discussing the case of a licensed motor-car driver who was stone deaf, and whose evolutions in crowded traffic had given rise to the unfair inference that he was hopelessly drunk. A responsible officer of the Public Carriage Department, at Scotland Yard, has now declared that anyone over 18, "even blind men and armless and legless men," may get a licence. This arresting statement may serve as a reminder that the possession of a driving licence implies no sort of guarantee as to a man's fitness to control a motor vehicle, but is merely evidence of his having complied with the requirements of the Revenue authorities. To scatter licences broadcast and then to endorse or withdraw them after accidents have occurred, may be the only course immediately practicable, but it scarcely strikes one as the acme of administrative wisdom.

The Land of Plenty.

It is a coincidence that in the issue in which we comment on the Deal school-attendance case we find a school-attendance case, not less monstrous, reported in the Canadian papers at length. One of the Toronto dailies sums it up in a paragraph: "A family has been seven months in Canada. Yesterday the father was in Court under the Truancy Act because his daughter, under the age of 14, was not attending school. The father's excuse was that in seven months he had been unable to secure but four months' employment. He was seeking work; his wife had found work; his daughter, owing to the mother's absence, was looking after the house. Sentence: A fine on the father of 100 dollars (£20) and costs, or 30 days in gaol. The man was ushered down to the cells, protesting that he had never been jailed before. The truancy officer reported against this man that he was constantly sneering against Canada. In the name of common-sense, how could he help it? Now that he has been jailed it would be nothing more than fair to provide him with every facility for sneering at his heart's content. He ought to be furnished with a megaphone." Quite right. Any more for the Great El Dorado?

A Pressing Reform.

Mr. William J. Jessop, of King Street, Nottingham, who has incurred fines amounting to £285 in respect of his resistance of the Shops Act, has intimated his intention of complying with the requirements of the measure on and after the first Thursday in January. We are by no means disposed to indulge in cheap sneers at Mr. Jessop's expense, but are rather inclined to admire the pluck and persistence with which he has so long stuck to his guns. It is hard, however, to kick against the pricks of established law, and in this country, at any rate, passive resistance has rarely proved itself an effective instrument of reform. At the same time, we cheerfully confess unfeigned sympathy with the growing number of traders who are striving by all lawful means to secure the deletion of the more rigorous and least beneficent clauses of the Act.

A Bad "Deal."

Here is another hint for the War Secretary, and now that he is determined to try up-to-date methods to make the Army popular, he might make a note of it. At the Royal Marine Depot, Deal, a number of men are employed in the various building trades, receiving extra pay, ranging from 1½d. to 2¼d. per hour. They are, however, compelled to work at night, after doing their ordinary day's duty. Their grievance, of course, is that when the scheme for the employment of marines on the Works Department was approved, it was naturally assumed that if overtime had to be worked it would be at increased rates. Only the other evening twenty men were warned to parade at 6 p.m., marched three miles to work, which they remained at until 8 p.m. They then had to march back to barracks—the maximum pay for the whole of this being 5d.!

Christian Charity!

The latest case of professional "Christian charity" reaches us from Newbury. The occasion was the marriage of an artisan. After the wedding service, it is usual to conduct the happy couple to the altar, to receive a blessing from the Deity. This part of the ceremony was, however, refused because the bride, although a former member of the Church, had left it for Chapel. The officiating clergyman told her that she should have been married in a Register Office. *He took the whole of his fee, though!*

Though seas divide and oceans roll—I quaff with you the flowing bowl;

Blythe, Bonny and Bright.

From a Croydon reader: "This is not the style and title of a music-hall trio; nor is it a potted review, nor even the Rev. F. B. Meyer's opinion of Miss Maud Allan's latest production. 'Blythe, Bonny and Bright' are three words which greet the wondering eyes of worshippers in St. Mark's Church, South Norwood. To be precise, a trio of dear ladies who regularly attend that place of worship are in the enviable possession of those happy patronymics and they have jointly rented a pew upon which their three names are emblazoned. How fortunate it is for them that the pew is made for three sittings only, for it would indeed be sad if Miss Fortune came among them."

Voila!

Apropos of our Open Letter to Mr. Gilbert, L.C.C., the chief of the Paris police has decreed that henceforth the wearing of dangerous hatpins by women entering public vehicles and crowded public places will not be allowed. What a pity it is that the courage of the London County Council cannot also be brought up to the sticking—or rather prevention of "sticking"—point.

Bibulous Bobby at Bromley.

We should very much like to know how it is that a certain police constable at Bromley, who is unusually vigilant after "drunks," is himself allowed to roam the streets in a high state of intoxication.

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

THE MISTLETOE BOUGH—NEW VERSION.

No mistletoe hangs in the castle hall,
No holly branch hangs on the old oak wall,
And very good reason why, you'll say—
The staff and the family are away.
Oh, the mistletoe bough! Oh, the mistletoe bough!

The family sport among Alpine snows,
The servants are scattered to—no one knows.
On board wages they take their ease,
Visit the panto. and Tango Teas—
Oh, the mistletoe bough! Oh, the mistletoe bough!

Two suffragettes in the wee, small hours
Creep up close to those ancient towers;
Powder and petrol each conveys,
And plenty of shavings to make a blaze—
Oh, the mistletoe bough! Oh, the mistletoe bough!

Harm the owner had done them none,
Votes or no votes to him were one:
What was that to the militant twain
As they made with powder a fiery train?—
Beginning to fizzle, too, now! See, it's fizzling now!

Later on, in the morning light,
Behold the castle a ruin—quite.
A gutted skeleton, black as jet,
Like the evil heart of a suffragette—
And where've they mizzled to now? Where've they mizzled to now?

Fiends and furies in woman's guise
Such demoniacal deeds devise.
May all guilty of crimes like this
Never enjoy a Christmas kiss
Under the mistletoe bough! under the mistletoe bough!

"John Bull s" Biscuits.

[*"Taking the Biscuit" has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For the following instruction: "To clean the kettle: Place the empty kettle on a stove—NOT ON THE FIRE—*where it can get hot. When thoroughly hot* REMOVE FROM THE FIRE,"

THE LIVERPOOL WEEKLY POST
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "William Heath, Booley Bank, blacksmith, was charged with riding a BICYCLE WITHOUT REINS,"
THE WELLINGTON JOURNAL & SHREWSBURY NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

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*For inserting under the heading of "*SEASIDE BOARD AND APARTMENTS,*" the following announcement: "To Let. Bed-Sitting Room,* ONE MILE OF STRAND,"
THE EVENING NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a fire "was first discovered by a servant sleeping on the premises, who, FEELING A SMELL *of smoke, looked out of the window and saw the fire,"*
THE EVENING STAR & DAILY HERALD (Ipswich)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "The most important result on Saturday was the second defeat of the season of Wick. The VISITORS *were Arundel, who had the advantage of playing* ON THEIR OWN GROUND, *and won by the only goal of the match,"*
THE FOOTBALL MAIL & NEWS (Hull)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that at a local theatre: "This week Charles Reade's great play, 'It Is Never Too Late to Mend,' holds the boards. It is as fresh and UNWHOLESOME *as ever,"*
THE PIONEER (Merthyr)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in an article regarding the Football Association's decision to play the Cup Final at the Crystal Palace that "mimic invasions FOLLOW *in its* VAN,"
THE BIRMINGHAM DAILY MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising that: "Rumours as to the STABILITY *of this hall are* ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE,"
MR. R. TREADGOLD
(Proprietor of Treadgold's Picture House, Redditch)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing a "Dutch Fair" with the intimation: "You are cordially invited to walk through. You will not be PRESSED TO PURCHASERS,"
THE EASTERN DAILY PRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, according to the "Postman's Gazette" that: "The Postmaster-General, it was stated, had the public on ONE HAND, *the Treasury on* ANOTHER, *and the postal servants on* THE OTHER."
MR. STEEKSMA
(Chairman of the Hull Branch of the Postal Clerks' Assoc.)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same item be forwarded by several competitors, preference will be given to the one whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue. Envelopes must be addressed to "The Biscuit Editor"

Though oceans roll and seas divide—My hand's in yours this Christmastide.

THE TRUCE OF YULE.

A WORD IN SEASON—THE COMING CHANGE.

Like so many of the biggest things, Christmas has grown out of its name. Neither its first nor its second syllable speaks the whole truth. Its intense human significance transcends Catholicism and outruns Christianity. It is no longer a religious festival. It is less a rite than a romp. "A Merry Christmas," we cry, and set to, with right good will, to make it so. Cautious husbandry relaxes. Cheery optimism prevails. Charity kisses misfortune. Cold reserve melts in genial warmth. Asceticism has no place at this season; it yields to the genius of humanity. For the nonce, its altars are laden with plenty. Piety spells pity. With a mighty urge which recks not of sect or creed, the race reaches forth to the best of which it is conscious. And the divinities are complacent—for it is godlike to be kind.

Peace! This is the keynote of Christmas. Peace—and good-will if it may be; but where there is no good-will, then a decorous truce. The sound of brawling is a desecration of something which is holier than a cloister. The boor who will fight with tongue or fist at Christmas-tide, deserves a whip. He is excommunicated from humanity's holy places. A truce to your cavilling, gentlemen. Put up your swords and grasp your bowls. A plague on "both your houses" and a blessing on all your hearts. Fill again, one and all—here's a health unto you. Right or wrong, or a bit of both—leave it for the while. One thing at least we have in common—we are men in a world of men. God bless us, every one.

How it Works.

In practice it works out something like this. There is that man in the next street to you who raises your "dander" to an extent which is altogether inexcusable. He attends the Wesleyan Chapel, and you pass him every Sunday on your way to Church. You detest his Radical opinions, and resent his nasty "stuck up" airs. Well, well—but Christmas is coming, and Charity is blinder than Love. The bells are ringing and you can afford a generous thought. True the fellow holds his head a trifle high, but there may be reasons you wot not of. If he is really "stuck up" it is probably because in earlier days he was stuck down by the cruel pressure of adverse circumstance, and so has gone up on the rebound and cannot help himself. His subversive opinions may be traceable to a similar source. He found the world all topsy-turvy and wrong, and he conceives it his mission to set it right in the light of his limited experience. But he is hopelessly stupid and perverse, you say—blind to logic and deaf to reason, full of foibles and bristling with prejudices. Yes, yes—but the bells are ringing. Their music thrills and cheers. "Good-morning, to you, Sir. A Merry Christmas. God bless us both."

Or was it you who stepped but lately from the gate of Little Bethel to encounter a pillar of the Church militant? Was yours the lip that curled in scorn as you seemed to sniff the odour of incense? Ah yes, of course, the man is a dupe, if not an agent of the Scarlet Woman—and a hide-bound Tory to boot; an enemy of progress and a prophet of stagnation. Neither your puny prattlings nor his can stay or deflect the onward march of the world's evolution. And the bells are ringing out a stage of its eternal progress. Wherefore, a truce to banal controversy. "Good-morrow to you, good Sir, and may the God Whom we quarrel about bless us both."

But perhaps, dear reader, you care for none of these things. It may be long since you discoursed of divinity; while politics, perchance, have ceased to charm. You may even have known something of the bitterness which comes of gazing into an empty heaven as it stretches blank and irresponsive athwart a troubled world. But there is a note of hope in the music of the bells. Dark mystery veils the face of Deity, but the eyes of men are smiling. There is a thrill of cheer and comfort in the air. Would you know the deep calm of settled peace for which the parsons pray? Then grip that outstretched hand, never caring for its owner's name or pedigree. Stoop to yon broken one, the more tenderly that his wounds excite repulsion. Your unpretentious aid may avail when priests and Levites have passed by on the other side. See yon ragged urchin, poor starved waif of our muddled systems. If only from the memory of your own bitter loneliness, you will scarce leave him desolate. The bells forbid. Take him by the hand. Creeds may come, and creeds may go, but a kindly human act is still earth's saintliest sacrament. A Merry Christmas to us all!

The Application.

No preachment is complete without its application, and since we have dropped into sermonising vein, let us go through with it. What a difference it would make if we could infuse the true human spirit of Christmas into the affairs of this old world of ours, or even into the business of our own distracted land! For, after all, the Christmas spirit is the spirit of common-sense, and applied common-sense is the supreme need of the moment. The gospel of hate is the rant of unreason; amity and concord are the children of sense. "Peace and good will" is no mere religious shibboleth, no empty flourish of sentiment—it is a counsel of sober prudence. Peace at any price—peace when there is no peace—away with these. They are the cries of fools and of knaves who wait eagerly upon their folly. But to seek peace and ensue it, is the watchword of practical wisdom. We must keep our bludgeons by us in case of need, but our every-day tools must be of a more civilised pattern.

And it is just here that we have got shockingly muddled and wrong. We have carried the crude weapons of warfare into the realm of social effort. Politics—the very word is in bad odour—has become a battleground resonant with the rude cry of conflict. Its methods are a negation of its purposes. Two navvies confronted with a load would scarce dream of shifting it by pulling in opposite directions; yet in no wiser spirit do we face the stubborn obstacles to our national progress. The very terminology of politics is borrowed from the arena of arms. Those who differ from us to the "how" or "when" of political innovation or social change, are dubbed "enemies" who must be "fought." We conduct "campaigns" against them, wherein our "forces" are supplied with "ammunition" compounded of chopped logic and printer's ink. An election is a "fight," in which one party gains "victory," while the other sustains "defeat." And you know as we know, gentle reader, that in the real essentials we have got no forwarder by this method. The final order of our martial commanders is always "As you were!"

Isn't it time we called a Christmas truce that shall last from Yule to Easter, then on till St. Lubbock's—and brood o'er a warmer, kindlier land when Christmas comes again? Is it worth a trial, think you? Shall we see what quiet collective effort can do to repair the havoc of the warring factions? If the "ayes" have it, then handgrips all round for the love of Britain, and a sounding cheer for the better way. And, again, a Merry Christmas and God bless all of us!

A PECKSNIFFIAN WORM.

COUNCIL CONDONES DASTARDLY DEED.

It is frequently argued that a man's moral character, or want of one, should not be permitted to affect his official or professional advancement. In certain circumstances, we should be disposed to look leniently upon such a plea, but there are limits to its application, and we confess our utter inability to discern the reasons which have induced the Ardsley (Yorkshire) Urban District Council to cast the mantle of their protection over the unworthy person of George A. Auty, a Rate-Collector in their employ. In virue of his official position, Auty is brought into almost daily contact with all sorts and conditions of men—and, what is more to the point of women—and in view of the man's record, we can hardly think he is the kind of person with whom they would willingly exchange a word.

The tragic tale of Auty's villainy is quickly told. Early in 1910, a Mr. Benson of Morley, sent his daughter Laura, a girl of nineteen, to stay at Auty's country house. The two men were close friends, and it was arranged that the girl should act as a general help in the household, assisting Auty's wife with the management of several young children. With scarcely credible infamy, the scoundrel set himself to compass the girl's downfall. In September, 1911, she bore him a child. There are indications that the rascal had added to his villainy by a base and cowardly attempt to avert the natural consequence of his licentious act. Be this as it may, and the matter has not yet formed the subject of judicial investigation, the unhappy girl did not long survive her confinement. At the end of September she died.

In craven terror of exposure, Auty had undertaken to make Mr. Benson such poor solatium as money might afford. He made no attempt, however, to fulfil his promise. In March, 1911, Mr. Benson brought an action against him, with a view to the effective exposure of his infamous conduct. To the plaintiff's suit Auty entered an unprincipled and lying defence. He denied the act of seduction and disowned his bastard child, thus striving to heap further shame upon the dead victim of his lust. The wretched shift met the fate it deserved. Auty was too much of a coward to go into the box and tell his own dirty lies. He was adjudged to pay Mr. Brown £175 damages and costs. To this day half the money remains unpaid.

Mr. George A. Auty, Rate-Collector and Assistant Overseer of the parish of West Ardsley, stands thus revealed. Briefly, these are the circumstances into which the Urban District Council of Ardsley have been pressed to inquire. They have steadily refused to purge their staff of a man whose continued presence in their midst is a nauseating offence to the decent inhabitants of the parish. Faced with this puzzling indifference to the simple requirements of decency, the Local Government Board is of opinion that it "cannot properly undertake to intervene." The local Commissioners of Taxes have evinced similar indifference. It merely remains to be added that Auty was, at the date of his offence, a shining light at a local Bethel!

A "HUNT" FOR "CHURCHILL."

A STAND WHICH STOOD STILL TOO LONG.

One of our oversea readers, at Sarawak, asks us to clear up a little mystery. Seeing an advertisement in a magazine that Messrs. Churchill, of 15, Oxford Street, London, were selling dress-stands, she forwarded a postal order, and at the same time ordered a pair of corsets from Messrs. Pontings, instructing them to deliver at Churchill's, so that they could be forwarded with the larger article. Messrs. Ponting carried out their part of the bargain in a business-like manner, but Churchill's failed to fulfil theirs—indeed, they have even retained the corsets. Inquiries go to show that the firm of Churchill's was run by a man named Hunt. His Oxford Street establishment was closed some months ago and was transferred to 347, City Road. Hunt has also cleared out of the latter address, and we have not been able to trace him. If this should meet his eye—and we have no doubt it will—we shall be pleased to supply him with our correspondent's address, in order that he may carry out his obligation.

"SILENTLY STEALING AWAY."

BOGUS THEATRICAL AGENT'S MEAN TRICK.

In October last an advertisement appeared in a theatrical paper asking for chorus ladies for pantomime. A poor girl, living at Seacombe, replied, and in course of post received a letter from a person calling himself Arnold J. Middleton, offering her an engagement at 30s. a week. The communication was written upon elaborate paper, at the head of which the following verse was printed:—

The night shall be filled with music,
And the cares that invest the day
Shall fold their tents like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away.

This communication was addressed from the Post Office, Blackburn. A postscript asked for 5s. "deposit on Contract." The girl forwarded the money in the hope of getting the engagement, but as she received neither contract nor receipt, she sent a postcard to Middleton asking the reason. The next she heard from him was by letter addressed from the Post Office, New Brighton, in which he acknowledged the receipt of her postcard, but not the postal order. All endeavours to reach the man having failed, we have been appealed to. We shall be glad if any of our readers can furnish us with further particulars of Middleton, for in addition to depriving the poor girl of the 5s. he carried into practice his admiration of the lines we have quoted from Longfellow to the extent of leaving New Brighton and forgetting to pay his landlady.

A CURIOUS COLONEL.

TERRIER WHO CAN TELL THE TALE.

Many soldiers are sincere Christians, and so long as they do not parade their piety they have our respect. This, however, we cannot extend to Lieut.-Col. G. E. Holman, who acts as Honorary Treasurer to a Mission in the East End. He is appealing for funds, and his extraordinary epistle is worth quoting:—

> Before my severe illness and operation I have been making a very definite and urgent appeal for help to my Mission Fund. I have been much touched with the quick response and the many kind messages I have received, not the least by those who have only been able to send me 6d. and 1s. One dear soul sent the sweetest of messages on a postcard, and said she could not just at the moment send me anything, and wrote on a card "If she sent a letter and I opened it and found nothing, I might be disappointed. Is that not the spirit of Christ? I have been astonished as I have heard from one and another that their Church was praying for my restoration to health.

We have never met this Terrier, but if he can command a regiment as well as he can "tell the tale," he should have a special medal struck for him.

CUTTING AT CAMBERWELL.

SOME AMAZING INFIRMARY SUGGESTIONS.

At a recent meeting of the Camberwell Board of Guardians it was stated that the number of the local poor was 790 less than last year. No wonder! Some few weeks ago we drew the attention of our readers to the fact that men from the Camberwell Workhouse were being sent to do "scab" labour in Scotland. This would account for a few. At the meeting mentioned the pertinacious Countess de Lorinet wished to ask the Chairman a series of questions, which were, however, disallowed by 13 votes to 8. As they are of considerable importance in considering the causes of the diminution, we give them in order that the ratepayers may look into the matter themselves: "1. Do you admit the truth of the statement by Dr. Keats that 240 *post-mortems* take place yearly in the infirmary? 2. Did the number of inquests correspond? 3. If not, by whom were the *post-mortems* authorised? 4. How many operations were performed during twelve months? 5. How many deaths occurred during the same period?"

We believe a guinea is allowed for each *post-mortem*, but we cannot bring ourselves to think that all these took place in one infirmary in a single year. If so, however, we can quite understand the poor clearing out of Camberwell.

Let happiness and mirth abound—And joy and merriment go round.

HANDS OFF THAT CHRISTMAS BEER!

A WORD FOR WASSAIL IN THE WORKHOUSE.

We trust that the workhouse inmates who are to be granted a limited allowance of cheering liquor, wherewith to celebrate the festal season, will raise their glasses to the spirit of Charity which has prompted the concession, while others, less happily placed, may well quaff their cold tea or ginger-pop to the confusion of niggardly Puritanism and all its unlovely works. Every year, with banal regularity, the time-dishonoured controversy recurs to furnish renewed evidence of the grudging, kill-joy spirit, which never appears so contemptible as in the genial glow of Yuletide warmth. All the talk about creating a "longing" for drink, and "upsetting the old folk" is mere bunkum. It is all part of the fanatical crusade of the water bibber. We have all heard the old story of the temperance orator who was drawing to the close of his discourse, and in order to work up his audience to the pitch of enthusiasm necessary for some of them to sign the pledge, launched forth into rhetoric.

"When Dives found himself in Hell," said he, "he was racked with a consuming thirst. In this terrible predicament, my friends, what did the poor man ask for? Did he ask for champagne? (A Voice: "No.") Did he ask for port-wine? (Again: "No.") Did he ask for beer? ("No.") You are right, my friends, he asked for none of those accursed beverages, beverages to every bottle of which the label 'Poison' ought to be attached. Dives asked for none of those. What he did ask for was a cup of cold water; a cup of clear, cold water. Now, my friends, what does that show?" Voice from the back: "It shows where all you rabid teetotalers go to." Collapse of lecturer, the owner of the voice being removed by the police.

Now the moral of this story lies here: If the interrupter was correct in his location of the final destination of the rabid teetotaler, certain members of certain Boards of Guardians may look forward to a particularly sultry time.

Periodically, the British nation is torn into factions by such arresting problems as: "What is a sardine?" Families are divided against themselves on the question: "Is the Tango indecent?" And we have heard that the next General Election will be fought around the question: "Do pheasants eat wurzels?"

But there is one problem which appears about Christmas time as regularly as the sea-serpent in August, or the giant gooseberry in July. It is: "Ought paupers to drink beer with their Christmas dinners?"

The British Board of Guardians is an institution which we should be sorry to see disappear. It is an institution which fosters humour as a hen fosters her brood. It is an institution which robs our gloomy climate of its taste of tediousness. Most Guardians are as merry a crew as ever cut a throat or sank a ship. They will refuse a widow Out-Relief, or send a Casual to gaol for refusing his task, as merrily as one of our humorous judges will sentence a man to ten years' penal servitude. And around the question of Christmas beer they positively scintillate.

Unfortunately, we have mislaid our report of a recent meeting at which this subject was discussed, so that we are compelled to reconstruct the scene by the aid of memory and imagination.

A TYPICAL DEBATE.

At a meeting of the Muddleborough Board of Guardians yesterday, the question of providing beer at Christmas for the inmates of the local Workhouse came up for discussion. The subject provided some lively passages of arms between the various members of the Board.

In moving a resolution to the effect that two pints of ale be allowed each male inmate and one pint for each female, Mr. Aaron Blunt said: "I am a man that likes a glass of ale myself, and I like to see others enjoying a glass of ale." (A Voice: "By Jove, you do!") "I know very well that there are some old washerwomen in petticoats and some in trousers who would debar everybody from enjoying a glass of beer, but, Mr. Chairman, we need take no notice of such canting fanatics." (The Rev. Dodd: "I protest!" Miss Susan Tabbit: "Withdraw. This is an outrage!")

Here a general uproar ensued. Upon being appealed to, the Chairman said that as Mr. Blunt had mentioned no one specifically, the Chair could not demand the withdrawal of a term which was quite parliamentary. Mr. Blunt then resumed:

"As some of you seem to have fitted the cap, you have my permission to wear it. As I said before, I like a man who can take his glass and leave it. And what I say to this Board is, Give the poor old people a treat for once in a while. If they want beer to their Christmas dinners, let 'em have it."

Mr. Carter then seconded, after which the Rev. Timothy Dodd rose to propose an amendment.

"I beg to move," said he, "that sarsaparilla be given in lieu of beer. Sarsaparilla is a most exhilarating drink. I take it myself upon occasion, and I think I might almost term it the glass that cheers, yet not inebriates." ("Pshaw!" from Mr. Blunt.) "It's all very well for Mr. Blunt to say 'Pshaw!' but I have my duty to perform as the spiritual shepherd of this parish; and I intend to perform that duty without fear or favour." (Mr. Blunt: "Sit down.") "I shall not sit down. I have been alluded to as an old washerwoman in trousers. Well, all I can say is that there are far worse things than old washerwomen in trousers. Wolves in sheep's clothing, for instance. Considering that strong drink is the acknowledged cause of all the crime, poverty, sin, and—(*groans*)—I see I am to be denied a full hearing, so I will content myself by moving the amendment."

DICKENS' BUMBLE STILL SURVIVES.

In supporting the amendment, Miss Susan Tabbit said: "Why it should be thought necessary to pamper paupers with beer on Christmas Day passes my comprehension. I have always looked upon Christmas Dinner as a sacrament; there are some here—yes, sitting round this table, who would degrade it to the level of a debauch. (Mr. B.: "Rot!") "If the Board were to allow each inmate a pint of beer, those of them who are abstainers might hand on their share to their weaker brethren. The result would be that the Christmas Dinner at the Workhouse would resemble to an alarming degree the worst excesses of the French Revolution. Personally, I see no need for supplying even sarsaparilla, but in deference to a minister of the Gospel I am willing to make that concession. But I would add, let the men and women be treated alike. Why should the men receive preferential treatment—a glass of sarsaparilla each, I say."

Mr. Levinsky, in supporting the amendment, said: "The way the rates are going up is something scandalous. To supply paupers with beer is to encourage extravagance. Personally, I never spend a penny in beer, and I don't see why anyone else should. I am happy to join hands with the Rev. Dodd on this occasion in support of his amendment, and I may add that I know an excellent herbal brewery which would supply the sarsaparilla at less than a farthing a glass." (A Voice: "Five per shent.")

This remark caused several members of the Board to start to their feet. A free fight ensued, but eventually order was restored, and the amendment was carried. This Christmas the inmates of the Workhouse will go without their beer.

That, we affirm, is a tolerably accurate account of what has recently taken place at several meetings of Guardians. It simply serves to show what the teetotal tyrants would do had they power. There is not a doubt that, had the teetotal brigade their way, not one of us would be able to obtain even so much as a little brown jug this Christmas

"Use a little wine for thy stomach's sake," wrote the apostle. If wine, why not beer? For, after all is said, there is some tincture of truth in the poet's lines:—

"For ale has done much more than Milton can
To justify the ways of God to man."

Under a Business Government, every pauper should have his beer and baccy at Christmas. It is good business to make the old folk happy.

WHO'LL LAUGH LAST?

THE TALE OF A SEWING MACHINE.

A Lancaster correspondent relates a curious experience. In June last, he declares, two sewing machine canvassers called at his house with the strange request that they might be permitted to leave a machine there, so as to make room in their cart for a friend to whom they wished to give a lift. Their condition was such that our correspondent's wife was indisposed to parley with them—a fact which may explain the delightful informality of their proceedings—and she accordingly consented to harbour the machine for the night, having first been somewhat irrelevantly informed that it was valued at £9. Having thus abandoned their troublesome luggage, the hilarious canvassers appear to have given it no further thought. Six months elapsed, and no one sought to reclaim the deserted machine. Letters addressed by our correspondent to the local depot elicited no response.

Just when the lady was beginning to reflect that possession was at least nine points of the law, another canvasser appeared upon the scene. With unusual generosity he offered to defray out of his own pocket the requisite preliminary payment of three shillings, if the good wife would agree to complete the purchase of the machine by weekly instalments of eighteen pence. In vain did she protest that she had no intention of purchasing the instrument, which she had housed gratuitously for half a year. The canvasser was pressing and his terms attractive. The lady succumbed, and an agreement was signed.

Our correspondent was by no means pleased at the turn of events. He had given his wife no authority to enter into a hire purchase agreement, and he promptly wrote to the local office repudiating the contract of his too susceptible partner. He might as well have saved his paper and ink. No notice whatever was taken of his communication. The canvasser continued to call and succeeded in extracting one further payment from the wife, since when he has called each week with unfailing regularity, and has regularly gone empty away.

Last month, however, the good lady was honoured by the receipt of an ominous letter from a London solicitor. She is now threatened with legal proceedings, swift, sudden and severe. She must instantly pay up arrears of instalments or else suffer the grim vengeance of the law. The unfortunate husband apparently plays no part in the lawyer's calculations, perhaps for the very excellent reason that he cannot, in the circumstances of this case, be held liable on a contract signed by his wife without his authority. Our correspondent invites us to predict what will happen. We will try to guess. Lawyers will "bluff," canvassers will trouble his door knocker, threatening documents will disturb his peace. Through all this, if he is wise, he will emulate Brer Fox and the Tar Baby by lying low and saying nothing. The sewing machine company will then realise that bluff doesn't always work, and that postage stamps cost pence. They will reflect that the husband cannot be sued, and that his wife, in a financial sense, is not worth suing.

Whereupon they will subside, having first instructed their canvassers to be a little more careful in their negotiations with ladies of married estate, and on no account to leave valuable property on people's doormats, even though they—not the doormat—may have been "out in the wet."

THE STRAIGHT TIP.

"MAKING ASSURANCE DOUBLY SURE."

Not for the first time, Mr. Paul Taylor has found occasion to address a few home truths to the police. A man being charged at the Marylebone Court with loitering with intent to bet a solicitor instructed by the police appeared to prosecute, whereupon Mr. Taylor observed that the employment of a professional man as prosecutor in so trivial a case was a wanton waste of public money, which must not again occur. "When I see a solicitor brought down by the police," he continued, "to support a trumpery case of this kind, I begin to think that the police are not very sure of their case, and think it a weak one." And when Mr. Paul Taylor says a thing like this, you may rest assured that there's something in it.

CHILD CRIMINALS.

A WORD TO OLDHAM HUMANITARIANS.

It is easy to understand and sympathise with the wave of indignation which swept over Oldham upon the official announcement that a reprieve had been refused to Kelly, the twenty-year old murderer, while the death sentence on his companion in guilt, a lad of eighteen years of age, had been respited on the ground of his mental deficiency and "because no one of his age has been executed in England in modern times." This latter reason for the exercise of the prerogative of mercy must, however, be taken in a very strict sense—for as recently as August 1st, 1831, a boy of but fourteen, bearing the peculiar name of John Any Bird Bell, was executed at Maidstone for the murder of a lad his junior by a year. And in considering these terrible cases, it must be remembered that in those times the children of the poor had not the benefit of even rudimentary education, but were allowed to run wild about the streets, at a period when vice was rampant among all classes. An even more horrible case happened two years later, when a child of nine was sentenced to death for breaking a pane of glass in a shop window, thrusting his hand through the aperture and stealing some toy paints worth twopence. We are unable to discover whether the awful sentence was carried out upon this poor baby. We sincerely hope not. Another dreadful instance of the barbarity of the law was the execution, in 1819, of three young men one aged but twenty-two, for the robbery of four silver spoons; while the crowning horror in the case of Mary Thompson, a girl of nineteen, who in 1841 suffered the extreme penalty of the law at York after conviction of the murder of her master and mistress, was the remorseful confession—after witnessing her shameful end—of her sweetheart, whom the poor creature had refused to betray, although to have done so would have been able to save herself.

To go further back would be to open a crimson-stained volume from which every humane man would revolt. For instance, in the seventeenth century a boy of eight was actually hanged at Abingdon for setting fire to two barns. The "good old times" for which people sigh so often nowadays, were not all that ignorant fancy paints them. We shall enjoy our Christmas fare the more for knowing that such judicial atrocities as we have mentioned are impossible in these days. It is a sad reflection that the mitigation of the ferocity of the law is due in no way to the clergy—the Bishops, as a body, almost invariably voting in the House of Lords against any repeal of the old hanging Acts.

LOVE AND SPORT.

["*Sport is a bad Marriage Market.*"—DR. CLIFFE SHAW.

Oh, Dr. Shaw, not many folk
Your epigram will heed;
For, though you're Shaw, 'tis very plain
Your dictum will mislead.
For Sport and Cupid often plan
A love intrigue to hatch:
And their bold schemes materialise
In many a handsome match.

There's tennis with its court and love,
And cricket with its maiden;
And billiards with a miss or two
With many kisses laden.
And ladies on the croquet lawn
Are on the marriage track:
For one and all their hearts are set
On making up to Jack.

And oft around the tee in golf
Shy Cupid shoots his darts;
And in the highest game all,—
The clubs go down to hearts.
And e'en upon the racecourse, too,
Proposals, and a ring,
Announce engagements manifold
With many a fluttering.

Bring holly green and berries red—And mistletoe hang overhead.

SLOW AND SURE.

THE STRENUOUS LIFE AT SPRING GARDENS.

The Superintending Architect's Department of the London County Council, which is charged with the administration of the London Building Acts, has excelled itself and afforded signal earnest of its administrative efficiency. Mr. J. S. Baker, of Lower Edmonton, was formerly agent for certain properties in Vauxhall Walk, Lambeth, with reference to which, in October last, he received a series of interesting communications. He was informed that one Coggin, a District Surveyor of the Council, had discerned grave structural defects in the premises in question. No less than six of the houses were held to contravene the provisions of section 12 of the Act of 1905, and as if to emphasise the enormity of the breach Mr. Baker was treated to six notices in precisely similar terms, together with six copies of the outraged enactment as like as a row a beans. There is no taint of stingy economy about the methods of the L.C.C.! Mr. Baker, however, had long ceased to have any connection with the offending structures. They had, in fact, been razed to the ground more than twelve months before the issue of these notices! Their manifold shortcomings had thus found merciful oblivion and a brand new mineral water factory flourished on their former site!

You can't hurry these things. We are anxious to be fair to the Superintending Architect, and we have closely scrutinised the documents which he took a year to prepare. We find that, although nine-tenths of their contents was printed, it was yet necessary to insert into each one three words and seven figures in ink, and four figures and ten words with the aid of a typewriting machine—a tedious and tricky job! Moreover, the wretched things had to be stamped with a date stamp, endorsed with the recipient's address, folded up with copies of section 12, stuck into an envelope, and prepared for the post, before the Superintending Architect and his staff could in any sense be said to be through with their job. We detail these circumstances lest any thoughtless reader may be disposed to regard twelve months as an excessive allowance of time for the task in question. Such captious criticism must instantly yield to the simple and convincing "explanation" which the Superintending Architect has been good enough to tender to Mr. Baker. This officer declares that he has been busy—a highly impressive circumstance—and that, strange as it may seem, he has had other similar notices to "get out" during the period in question. Moreover, he assures all it may concern that the Council is under no legal obligation to send out such intimations, but that its officers might, had they so chosen, have gone down to Vauxhall Walk without whisper of warning, and done awful things to the houses that weren't there. It is thus clear that the labours of the Superintending Architect have been a work of virtuous supererogation. The tongue of criticism is hushed to reverential silence.

There we leave the matter, assuring the plodders of Spring Gardens of our respectful sympathy.

BARNSLEY BENEVOLENCE.

A WORD WITH THE MAYOR AND CHIEF CONSTABLE.

The problem of what to do with our sons has been solved by the Mayor and Chief Constable of Barnsley. About three months ago the caretaker of a large public building, the Harvey Institute, resigned, and an advertisement was inserted in the press for a successor. The remuneration was £90 a year, house, light and coal free. There was an enormous number of applications, amongst which was one from the Mayor's son. Long before the final selection it was freely rumoured that he would get the job—in fact, he was so hot a favourite that it was an "odds on" chance. Public confidence was justified, for he rolled home in a common canter. We understand that another vacancy is about to be filled. For a great number of years Barnsley has had three police inspectors. Now that one has dropped out it is proposed to do with two and a Chief Clerk. It is expected that the Chief Constable's son, who is also in the force, will be promoted to the position, over the heads of many men who are more justly entitled to it.

SHARP AND SHALLOW.

PRESUMPTUOUS JUDGES AND A LEGAL PRESUMPTION.

At the Brentford Police Court, Edith Batten, a domestic servant, was convicted of stealing a number of skirts and costumes. A portion of the stolen property was offered for sale to a Mrs. Huntley, a wardrobe dealer of Hanworth. Mrs. Huntley bought the goods, and subsequently exposed them for sale. In consequence of these transactions, she was charged with Batten "for that she had received the said goods well knowing them to have been stolen." Several other dealers who had purchased dresses from the prisoner were also summoned, but it is with Mrs. Huntley's case that we are now concerned.

Of evidence in support of the serious charge against her, there was no trace. A detective sergeant gave her an excellent character and expressed his conviction that "carelessness" was her worst offence. In these circumstances, it is a little difficult to see why criminal proceedings should have been instituted at all, but the officer was evidently doing his best to make belated amends. Following upon his evidence, Mrs. Huntley declared that Batten in proffering the dresses for sale had described them as "a present from uncle" and added that she was unable to wear them—the recent death of her mother having compelled her to "go into black." The girl was not personally known to her, and relying implicitly upon her statements and upon her appearance of respectability, she bought the goods outright for the lowest price which the seller would accept—which is the manner of wardrobe dealers.

Here, then, was the defendant's explanation. In no single particular was it questioned or contradicted. Was it reasonable? The Bench held that it was not. Remarking that Mrs. Huntley should have "been more careful," the Chairman imposed a fine of £3, with a month's imprisonment in default. In view of the clear requirements of the law in prosecutions of this character, we submit that both the conviction and the sentence were unjust to a degree.

One more point. Batten, who was now sent to a "home" for two years, was a girl of bad character, well known to the police. Why had the wardrobe dealers of the Brentford district received no warning with reference to her criminal habits, and why, in view of this deplorable omission, were the detective officers who had "got up" the case, complimented by the Bench? Compliments would seem to be cheap at Brentford.

A BALLADE OF CHRISTMAS EVE.

Some folk there are who coolly state
That Christmas bores with banal glee,
Who tell us Yule is out of date,
Or urge the "sentimental" plea:
But can we suffer their decree
To leave an empty stocking here,
Nor let the children choose our key
When Christmas comes—but once a year?

Nay; let the knowing person prate
We humbler folk must disagree
With those who deem unfortunate
Our simple pleasures. Gladly we
Will keep God's anniversary—
And what tho' others meanly sneer?
No matter that to you or me
So Christmas comes but once a year.

Not vainly tests the midnight wait
How "Christ was born of Mary free"!
We, too, rejoice and celebrate
A welcome child's nativity.
We could not follow those who flee
When draws the happy season near—
We greet December joyfully,
For Christmas comes but once a year.

L'ENVOI.

Saint Nicholas, none else may be
The patron saint of winter cheer—
We children look to you to see
That Christmas comes just once a year.

Light up the laden Christmas tree—And one and all come merry be.

"At Christmas play and make good cheer,
For Christmas comes but once a year."
Thomas Tussier, 1523—1580.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR CELEBRITIES.

MR. KEIR HARDIE.

"Long have my harp's best notes been gone;
Few are its strings, and faint their tone;
They can but sound in desert lone
Their grey-haired master's misery."
—"Harper of Glencoe"—SCOTT.

MR. REDMOND.

"And rapture, with varieties of fear
Incessantly conflicting, thrills the frames
Of those who, in that dauntless energy,
Foretaste deliverance."
—"Grace Darling"—WORDSWORTH.

MR. ASQUITH.

"But their strong nerves at last must yield
Early or late—they stoop to fate."
—"The Leveller"—SHIRLEY.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL.

"From his air and his mien, it was plain to be seen,
That he *was*, or *had been*, a something between
The real "Jack Tar" and the "Jolly Marine."
—"Ingoldsby"—BARHAM.

LORD HUGH CECIL.

"No one, in short, ever came half so near as he
Did to the full extirpation of heresy."
—"Auto da fe"—BARHAM.

SIR T. WHITTAKER.

"Drink to me *only* with thine eyes."
—BEN JONSON.

THE RIGHT HON. J. CHAMBERLAIN.

"His comrades, who before
Had heard his voice in every blast
Could catch the sound no more."
"The Castaway"—COWPER.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

"And what is fame in life, but half disfame
And counter-charged with darkness; ye yourself
Know well that Envy calls you, Devil's son."
—"Merlin and Vivien"—TENNYSON.

SIR E. CARSON.

"March indefatigably on;
And for the last effect
Still keep the sword erect."
—"Horatian Ode"—ANDREW MARVELL.

MR. LARKIN.

"And ever and anon he beat
The doubling (Dublin) drum with furious heat."
—"The Passions"—COLLINS.

MR. BONAR LAW.

"What may not then our Isle presume,
While victory his crest does plume
What may not others fear."
—"Piedmont"—ANDREW MARVELL.

MR. HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

"This man is freed from servile bands,
Of hope to rise, or fear to fall;
Lord of himself; though not of lands,
And having nothing, yet hath all."
—"Happy Life"—SIR H. WOTTON.

Cast carking care and fear away—And welcome in old Christmas Day.

"SWEET CHARITY."

A WORD ABOUT OUR "HUMAN DOCUMENTS."

At this season of the year it is pleasant to recall the good work which, with the generous aid of our readers, we have accomplished during the past year. The following are short details of one or two of the many cases in which, in this way, valuable help has been afforded to many a human derelict.

There is still time for any of our readers who have not given a helping hand to do so. They will appreciate the season of Charity and Goodwill the more were they to send a contribution—however small—to our Christmas Charities Fund.

HELP FOR A WIDOW.

A man, accidentally drowned, left behind him a widow and six children, the eldest under thirteen years of age. The woman was in a poor state of health, and our readers gave the husband a decent burial and put the widow on her feet again.

"DYING INDUSTRIES."

Owing to the advent of motor cars, a horse-keeper with a large family, and who had been in one employ for 42 years, was told that there was no more work for him. Through our instrumentality he was given a fresh start in life.

A THEATRICAL CASE.

The wife of an actor in the infirmary was suffering from consumption. She had one little boy. Our readers combined to remove them both from want.

A ROMFORD RESCUE.

Here was a family of ten, the eldest child being twelve years of age. The father, a strong and hard-working man, had been walking the streets for four months vainly endeavouring to find work. They were about to be evicted from their little home. Back debts were paid, clothes got, and work obtained for the man.

A BARNSLEY CASE.

A poor Barnsley woman had just lost her husband, who had long been an invalid. She was left totally unprovided for and with five children, the eldest nine, whilst another was expected in a few months. Our readers kept them all out of the workhouse.

"AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME."

A family of five were living in one room. The poor wife, who was not more than thirty-five years of age, declared that if it were not for her children death would be a welcome visitor, as her husband was out of work, and the "home" had been sold up bit by bit. Work was found for the man, clothes for the children, and they were placed in decent surroundings.

A HERO SCRAPPED.

One of our South African troopers, who was in the Siege of Ladysmith, was discharged with heart disease and a tumour of the main artery of the stomach. When we found him he was in the workhouse. Outside, living under frightful conditions, were his wife and four children. The man was taken out of the institution and substantial help was rendered to the family.

COMFORTING THE DYING.

A well-known physician brought to our notice the case of a lad suffering from tuberculosis and disease of the spine. He was one of a large family, and his widow mother could not afford to keep him at home, though the most the poor lad could live was only a few months. We managed to get him into a home where he had every comfort until he died.

DARBY AND JOAN.

An old farm labourer had worked for 50 years for one employer, an old maid with a heart of stone. When her faithful servant began to show signs of breaking down in health, she politely told him that she had no need for his services. The old man and his wife received as the result of our appeal over £20, which enabled them to make a little provision for themselves.

A WAITRESS AND HER MOTHER.

An anæmic waitress, who had been struggling for years to support herself and her mother, at last broke down in health. Our readers got her into a Convalescent Home and supported the mother during her absence.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCLXIX.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

DEPLORABLE WALTHAMSTOW CASE.

In Walthamstow lives a man of 57, his wife (the second), aged 38, three children by first wife and three by second—the girls being 12, 10, 8 and 5 years, and the boys 9 and 3. The father is a plumber, and was for over 20 years in the employ of one firm. He left owing to slackness of trade, and set up in business for himself. For 8½ years he was his own master, but, being stricken with contraction of the hands, for the last twelve months he has been able to do little or no work—as a matter of fact for over half that period he has been in an infirmary. He has excellent references and is at present in receipt of a small grant from the Guardians. All his little home has been sold—even bedclothes having been parted with to buy food. The children are very badly in need of clothing. A little help may keep the family out of the workhouse. Who will send them a Christmas-box?

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:

CCLXXVI.—"Goodwill," 1s. 3d.

CCLXXVII.—"Anon," 2s. 6d.; "Goodwill," 1s. 3d.; "Me and the Wife," 2s. 6d.; "Mariner," 10s.; Miss E. M. L. G., 2s.; "Evelyn," 1s.; "Constant Reader," 1s.; "Chiswick," 1s.; "N. G. 51," 5s.; J. R., 1s.; F. W., 1s. 6d.; "St. Wendred," 1s. 6d.; "My Turn Will Come," 6d.; E. M. H., 3d.; J. H. N., 2s 6d.; "Em-Ar," 1s.; "Good Health," 2s. 6d.; S. K., 3s. 6d.; E. J. S., 6d.; F. J. T., 1s.; T. R. (Nunhead), 13s.; H. L., 6d.; "Anonymous," parcel.

CCLXXVIII.—"Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; "Mariner," 10s.; "Little Johnnie," 8s.; W. M. P., 1s.; T. R. (Nunhead), 13s.

J. H. (Gainsboro'), the winner of a turkey in our "Bullets" Competition, has kindly given it to our "Human Document" Fund. The bird has, therefore, been forwarded to No. CCXXXIV.

We have this week apportioned £10, from the JOHN BULL Derby Sweepstake Charity Fund as follows:—£5 to CCXLVIII. £3 to the poor woman referred to in our issue of December 20th under the heading of "Relief in Shoreditch," and £2 to the subject of the paragraph entitled "What a Life!" appearing below

"'JOHN BULL'S' CHRISTMAS CHARITIES."

On page 974 will be found a short, preliminary statement of the work which, with the aid of our readers, we have been able to accomplish in the way of distributing necessaries and little luxuries among the poor in the East End of London and elsewhere this Christmastide As will be seen, the Fund is not yet closed.

WHAT A LIFE!

L.C.C. AND MOTHER OF FIFTEEN CHILDREN.

A poor woman living at Forest Hill makes a bitter complaint with reference to the L.C.C. She is the mother of fifteen children, fourteen of whom are living. Most of them are, of course, off her hands, but she has still a little family going to school. Her husband is a labourer. She tells us that during the past few years she has been summoned several times for sending her children to school dirty, and now she is charged again. She fears that a fine is a foregone conclusion, as she is "never allowed to say anything." We have inquired fully into the case, and certainly think it is one more deserving of help than punishment. The family have lived for twenty years at one address, and both husband and wife are strictly temperate. The husband's wages never reach more than 26s. a week, and the poor woman works from early morning to late at night at a laundry. The home, although poor, is scrupulously clean. The particular allegation is that the woman allows nits in her children's hair. In a case of this description a summons is no remedy.

Our £2,000 Football Christmas Box. See page 979.

A Situation at £200 a Year

offered by A. W. Gamage, Ltd.

Or £100 in cash—No Entrance Fee..

A VACANCY for a well-trained business man or woman will shortly occur in the great nrm of A. W. Gamage, Ltd., the famous Holborn outntters. The commencing salary, for one year certain, will be £200 per annum, but the situation will offer scope for advancement to a high position in one of the world's greatest and most enterprising organisations.

It has been decided to throw this appointment open to a competitive examination in general business knowledge, which will be conducted on behalf of Messrs. A. W. Gamage, Ltd., by the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd., of 54, Surrey Street, London, W.C., to whom all communications must be addressed.

Or £100 in Cash.

An alternative First Prize of £100 in Cash is offered in the event of the winner being already employed, or for some reason not desiring to take up such an important situation.

In addition there will be a second prize of £25 in cash, a third of £10 in cash and nine other valuable prizes.

The judges names and the fact that the Examination is being held for the purpose of finding the best man or woman for a post in a firm so justly renowned as that of Messrs. Gamage's are a sufficient guarantee of the fairness of the test.

Nature of the Examination.

The Examination will consist of 30 questions in Business Knowledge, and no question in it will be found beyond the capacity of an average business mind. As it is impossible to give here the whole of the particulars, a brief Prospectus has been prepared, indicating the character and scope of the Examination, which will be sent free of charge and without any obligation on receipt of the coupon at the bottom of the column.

It is distinctly understood that sending for the Prospectus of the Examination does not commit any reader to the intention of entering the Competition. You may be already engaged in business for your own benefit, or may be earning a higher salary.

Why You Should Enter.

But the Examination project will nevertheless interest you. You may wish to bring it to the attention of some employee, some junior, or some friend. It is quite certain that the research and thought which would be bestowed on business subjects will make your employee or subordinate more useful in his or her work.

Although you may not wish for the £200 salary, the alternative prize of £100 in money may appeal to you.

How it Concerns You.

But you, if engaged in business, will undoubtedly find the Examination interesting and informing. It will enlarge your views on Commercial Life. It will lead you to the consideration of problems which might never have occurred to you. It will unquestionably suggest new trains of business thought, and perhaps bring you into contact with ideas having practical value. Without consuming many hours of your time, it will offer you profitable recreation during the long evenings. And, in addition, there are eleven substantial prizes.

To the Ambitious Man or Woman.

But, on the other hand, if you are employed in work which does not give full scope to your talents, or are not paid according to your merits, or see no prospects and security of employment before you, this Business Examination offers a unique opportunity. The commencing salary is substantial, but it only represents the beginning of what a man or woman of thorough business training can aspire to.

The great house of Gamage's is world famous for its fair dealing and enterprise, and for the excellence of the goods it sells. In 35 years the goodwill of its customers has built it up from a tiny shop to the huge organisation it is to-day. The offer of a responsible position in such a firm does not occur often. But for that very reason it is an opportunity that no ambitious man or woman ought to miss.

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The only condition is that competitors must own the Business Encyclopædia, for Messrs. A. W. Gamage, Ltd., know from experience that the man or woman who possesses and studies this work is the best possible man or woman to fill a responsible post like the present one. If you are interested in the offer of a commencing salary of £200 a year (or alternatively £100 in money), and eleven other prizes, write at once for the Prospectus.

THE JUDGES.

Sir WILLIAM TRELOAR, Bart.
(ex-Lord Mayor of London).

Sir GEORGE RIDDELL.
(Director: News of the World, Ltd.; Director: Country Life Ltd.; Director: George Newnes, Ltd.)

Sir JOSEPH LYONS.
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T. J. BARRATT, Esq.
(Chairman: A. and F. Pears, Ltd.)

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(Managing Director: A. W. Gamage, Ltd.)

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(Governing Director: Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.: Director: George Newnes, Ltd.)

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Please send me, post free, and without any obligation on my part, full prospectus of the Business Examination for the position with A. W. GAMAGE, Ltd., and particulars of the Business Encyclopædia, and of your offer to deliver the complete work for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

NAME .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

ADDRESS .....

.....

MISERABLE LOOKING CURATE.—"I want to look at some cards—good ones."
NEW ASSISTANT (briskly).—"Yes, sir. We stock them at 1s., 1s. 6d. and 2s. the pack. The 2s. ones have a splendid surface, and are excellent for shuffling."

POLITICAL PATTER.

Mr. Winston Churchill.

(*Sings*) "Where did you get that hat,
Where did you get that tile?
Where did you get those togs
Of comic sporting style?
Oh, we should like to have some,
Just the same as those,"
The people shout when I go out
"Where did you get those clo's?"

Yes, beastly rude of them, isn't it. They forget who I am. I don't. Never. (*Band.*) Well, hardly ever. Nice thing if the First Lord of the Admiralty can't wear what hat and clothes he likes, isn't it? Who pays for them? (*A Voice:* "We do!") Then you ought not to grumble because I'm economical. Why do I wear hats that don't fit me? Answer me that. Why is my Homburg always too small, and my hard squarefelt always too large? (*A Voice.* "Because yore 'ead swells.") And why shouldn't it swell? I should like to know any gentleman in the gallery who would take on my job without getting a swelled head. Think what it means! (*A Voice:* "Four tharsand five 'undred quid a yer!") Yes; and a house thrown in rent free, if you want to know. And isn't the responsibility worth it? (*A Voice:* "Not 'arf!") Look what I've got on my shoulders. (*A Voice:* "'Oo's yer tailor?") I'm responsible for the vastest navy the world has ever seen. The safety of Britain, the security of the Empire, our national existence, are all in my hands. Will the gentleman in the gallery who is so fond of hearing himself speak come down and take over my job? (*A Voice:* "Not in them trousers.") Look here, I've come here to give you a little entertainment, not to be heckled and bullied by a lot of low-bred swabs in the gallery. (*A Voice:* "Go it, guv'nor!")—and I'm going to finish my turn whether you like it or not. (*A Voice:* "Give us the sailor's 'ornpipe, mate.") I'd give you fourteen days of 10A if I had you aboard one of my ships, me man. (*A Voice:* "Tork erbaht Germany.") You know what I think about Germany. (*A Voice:* "We know what Germany thinks erbaht *chew*.") I don't care what Germany thinks about me. (*A Voice:* "They think you're a mug.") Because I proposed a year's holiday from shipbuilding. America supports me. (*A Voice:* "'Cause why?") Because they can see the wisdom of my suggestion. Because—(*A Voice:* "It would give 'em a charnce to catch up.") But do you think I meant it? Do you think I thought Germany would agree? (*A Voice:* "Say somethink to make us larf.") You don't give me a chance. I came on to do a bit of patter, not talk politics. (*A Voice:* "Then w'y doncher?") If it hadn't been for that gentleman in the gallery—(*A Voice:* "Never said a word!") But I'll tell you one thing—so long as I'm head of His Majesty's Navy the Old Country won't be disgraced at sea. (*Cheers.*) Although I'm a Liberal—(*A Voice:* "'Ow long for?")—I'm a Britisher first, and I'd eat my hat before I'd allow Germany or any other foreign country to take a rise out of us. (*Band:* "Rule Britannia.") So you can understand how it is that, knowing myself to be a true patriot, with the enormous responsibility of Britain's safety resting on my shoulders, I feel hurt and annoyed when people shout:

"Where did you get that hat,
Where did you get that tile?
Where did you get those togs
Of comic sporting style?
Oh, we should like to have some,
Just the same as those,"
The people shout when I go out,
"Where did you get those clo's?"

"Bullets"—a profitable pastime for Christmas. Prizes value over £2,000.

NEVER TAKE RISKS WITH YOUR DRINKS.

Make sure of getting the finest, most wholesome, and most inspiriting of all beverages—

OLD BUSHMILLS WHISKY.

The Old Bushmil's Distillery Co., Ltd.,
20, Mark Lane, London, E.C.

3/-

The "Permedge" Razor gives you a keen shave for 365 days.

Made from the finest Sheffield Silver Steel scientifically hollow ground. In three widths of blade for heavy, medium or light beards. Should it fail to give you absolute satisfaction, return it and we exchange or refund your money in full.

BLACK HANDLE **3/-** IVORY HANDLE **5/-**

SELFRIDGE & CO., LTD.,
OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

SEND nine penny stamps to Newball & Mason, Nottingham, and they will send you a bottle of

Mason's Ginger Wine Essence

which makes

One Gallon Ginger Wine

with the addition of lump sugar.

All who apply before January 15th will receive a Neat Money Box, which makes a Useful Gift for the Children.

Sword Cutlers to H.M. the King.

WILKINSON SWORD STEEL RAZORS

THE SECRET OF A GOOD RAZOR IS IN THE STEEL.

Wilkinson's razors are made by expert workmen from "SWORD STEEL," Hardened and Tempered by special process
Wilkinson's "PALL MALL" Strong Beard Safety (new patent) **10/6** has a keen, stiff edge. Many safety razors now being sold are useless for strong beards. Wilkinson's Razors retain their keen edge much longer than any other so-called "best" razor on the market.

Obtained of all Stores, Cutlers, Hairdressers, etc.

INSIST ON HAVING A WILKINSON SWORD STEEL RAZOR AND YOUR SHAVING TROUBLES ARE OVER.

"IT'S THE STEEL THAT DOES IT."

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Use it in your home. It will restore your vital power, cure your rheumatism, backache, or chronic ailments, and make you the man you used to be.

In the words of the poet, "While you live, enjoy! For when once dead, you never shall return."

Here in this world we have everything to make us happy. We have much misery, it is true, but most of that can be traced to man's own weaknesses.

To be healthy and strong is to be happy. If you are unable to enjoy the gifts which Nature has bestowed so lavishly upon mankind, it is because of some fault of your own. You were endowed with a constitution that should have held good for your alloted three score and ten years, but you have broken Nature's laws, and now you are paying the penalty.

You have wasted your vitality; you have traveled the pace that kills. The spark of life has been dulled by your own follies.

Brace up! Arouse yourself from the state of dejection into which you have fallen. Turn your back upon the past. Make up your mind that while you live you are going to be a live man. Avail yourself of the means which Nature has placed within your reach for overcoming your physical ills. Make this world a heaven. Be healthy and happy. Radiant sunshine and joy. Get back your strength and ambition by wearing the "Ajax" Body Battery while you rest.

The "Ajax" is a scientific device for infusing a subtle stream of life-giving electricity into the human system without the least shock or irritation.

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OPEN LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.

To the Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, Home Secretary, Whitehall.

SIR,— There now lies under sentence of death at the Old Bailey, Mrs. Ada Annie Williams, condemned for the murder of the child born to her before marriage. If ever there was a life for pity and for tears, hers is one; if ever there were need for the swift clemency of the King it will be found in that cell. I need not dwell upon the tragedy. The woman brought this child with her when she commenced living with her present husband. It is admitted—he admitted the fact himself—that he was constantly taunting her about the boy; that he eventually left her with it without maintenance; that she then obtained an order against him, but that after she had met her rent and paid for the needs of her child she had only sixpence left; and that finally, in her dire poverty and frantic despair, she killed the child, in the belief, and hope, that her husband would then return to her.

I do not think it necessary to darken the colours of the terrible picture; in the light of the jury's recommendation to mercy and the fact that another child is soon to be born to this poor creature—still a young woman of 27—you, as the Home Secretary and the adviser of his Majesty the King, will see it as it is. It would be a crime far greater than the one she has committed if the sentence of the law were carried out. I am writing only to remind you that this is a case where mercy should not be delayed, so that its mission may appear more impressive. For the sake of the child unborn it should tread swiftly on the heels of Justice—in the name of that other Child who brought into the world so much of mercy and so much of love, and whose birth has given Christmas to us all—sinners as well as saints.

JOHN BULL.

To Viscount Morley of Blackburn.

DEAR LORD MORLEY,—I notice that to the chairman of a meeting held in protest against the cruelty involved in performing animal "turns" in music halls you addressed a letter expressing your "intense abhorrence of all performances that involve helpless animals in wanton suffering." I am in hearty agreement with the resolution passed appealing to entertainment managers to discourage the exhibition of performing animals. It may be said, I think, that hardly without an exception these entertainments, however they may appear to an audience, involve or have involved great cruelty to the "performers," and that they go through their "turns" more from fear than from enjoyment. It seems to me that the Bishops of London and Kensington would be better occupied in ridding public performances of these outrages upon defenceless creatures than they are in their present ridiculous campaign. Yours is a welcome and powerful voice in this matter, and I shall hope that it will not be heard in vain.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. John Richards, Newport, Monmouth.

DEAR JOHN,—I am not at all pleased with you. The other day some boys came singing blithesome carols at your door, heralding the approach of Christmas in the good old-fashioned way. Whether you have no ear for music, or the boys had no voice, I cannot say. Perhaps your food had stirred your spleen. Whatever the reason, you flew into a nasty, naughty temper, and stalking angrily to the door threw pepper into the eyes of the leading chorister. This was a shockingly wrong thing to do, and you have been properly punished. I trust you will employ the Christmas season in profitable reflection, and resolve never again to inflict needless pain upon a child, no matter how much annoyed you may be. I am anxious to be charitable, and it is just possible that at heart you may be neither a coward nor a bully, but appearances are all against you up to now. Why not search out the little beggar and give him a Christmas box? Then he may forget the pepper, and I will try to think better of you—and you'll enjoy your Christmas dinner after all. If you don't do something like this you won't relish it a bit, I promise you. The very sight of pepper will make you sick.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. William Barker, Workhouse Porter, Battle, Sussex.

DEAR BILL,—Since William the Conqueror won the Battle of Hastings on the site where the celebrated workhouse in which you have your being rears its noble walls, I have not had so great a pleasure as I have to-day in congratulating you on the happy issue of the debate of the Board of Guardians on the state of your trousers; even you will acknowledge that the Special Committee appointed by the Board to consider them in all their bearings have come to a decision with commendable alacrity. Three weeks ago, I may remind you, your trousers hung in the balance; there was a meeting of the Board, and you lost them by one, the Guardian who gave the deciding vote having a conscientious conviction that the old pair would last quite comfortably over Christmas if you took care not to sit in draughts. Happily there were others who realised that in the then existing state of affairs accidents might happen; the old pair might fall to pieces at the most inopportune moment, and the dignity of the Guardians be seriously compromised—to say nothing of your own.

In this trying moment of your career, Bill, I am glad to say you were not without friends. Whether it was out of pure kindheartedness, or in order to hide you from the public gaze I know not, but they rallied round you, and at the last meeting succeeded in obtaining a Committee of Inquiry which, I am delighted to learn, has now reported that you are not only to have a new pair of trousers but a new tunic as well. What is more, news reaches me that you are to have the whole *ensemble* made by the tailor in time to enable you to take part in the festivities of this joyful season, without shame and without restraint. Let me say in conclusion, Bill, on behalf of every member of the Board, that as the new rig-out will cost as much as £3 we rely on you to take care of it to the utmost of your ability—especially the trousers, for we realise that if the new pair wears out as rapidly as the old one has done, ruin will probably stare us in the face, the rates being positively unable to stand the continuous strain. Brace yourself up to fresh effort, therefore, let your trousers symbolise for you the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, regard them as a Christmas box for long and faithful service; and when their earthly day is done, as done some day it will be, let them remind you as you pass them over to the rag man of the many happy hours you have spent in them, in that sphere of life to which it has pleased Providence to call you Bill, a merry one to you.

JOHN BULL.

To Councillor Jarvis, Board of Guardians, Brighton.

DEAR COUNCILLOR,—I observe that you recently fell into grievous error. In honour of Yule, it was proposed to regale the inmates of your workhouse with sausages, among other toothsome delicacies. You proposed to delete the sausages from the menu on the ground that they were encased in skins which the elder inmates might find difficult of mastication. I gather that you displayed some heat over the matter, speaking volubly and with much vehemence. Then up rose your august Chairman to declare that on a former occasion the diners at your Christmas board had vied with each other in their zest for sausage, caring naught for their unyielding integument so only they might reach the luscious meat within. Thereat I assume that you withdrew your opposition, for the Chairman, and the sausages, easily carried the day. You see, my dear Councillor, you were wrong for once; but I beg you not to be unduly depressed. Even Great Homer nods.

JOHN BULL.

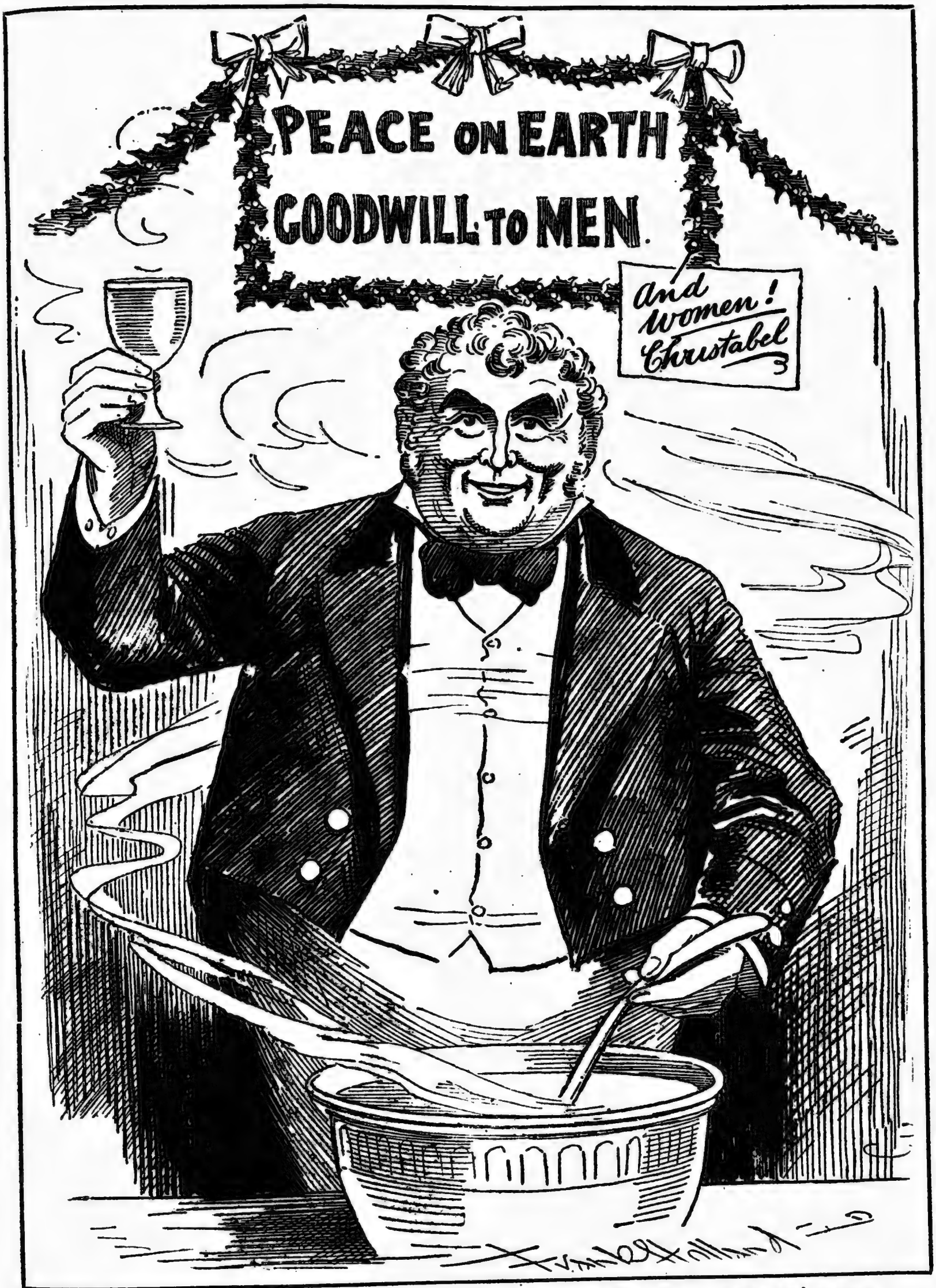
To H. Mallaby-Deeley, Esq., M.P.

DEAR MALLABY-DEELEY,—And so you are at it again. This time you have bought up the Duke of Bedford—and all on your own! *What* a "Nut" you are, to be sure. And you do not intend "to disturb existing lessees in their tenancies." Now that *is* good of you. I am sending you along a bag of "Biscuits"—with best wishes for an awfully merry Christmas. *Entre nous*, I am buying up Westminster and Portland. Do you happen to know of an Insurance Office—or anything of that sort—who would "lend" me the purchase price? See you at the House shortly.

JOHN BULL.

The Ideal Christmas and New Year's Gift—a "John Bull" Pen.

OUR CHRISTMAS TOAST.



Forget the Party shams and tricks
Of Rad and Tory politics;
Forget the war of peer and peasant,
The "mangled" wurzel and the pheasant.

Forget the feud of priest and parson
(Disguised as Redmond *versus* Carson);
Forget all cares that vex the soul,
And drown them in the wassail bowl.

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.

AN APPEAL FOR SEASONABLE CHEER FOR THE POOR.

Our appeal this year, for the London poor, has not been in vain, and we have been enabled to distribute food, toys, clothing, sweets, etc., amongst a large number of families in the East End and elsewhere. Not a penny piece of expense has been charged, willing helpers having come forward to assist in the distribution. In every case the food has been eaten *at home*, so that all should share in it, orders being given upon local tradesmen for the supply of meat, groceries, vegetables, bread, milk, etc. In these instances, of course, the distribution has been confined to cases into which personal inquiry had first been made. In other instances, subscriptions have been sent to various unsectarian and well-administered Charities. The money at our disposal was splendidly augmented by the addition of £1,000 from the "JOHN BULL Football Sweepstake"—from which source £500 is also added to our "Human Document" Fund. The following is a list of gifts and subscriptions—and to each donor we return our heartfelt thanks:—

"Lawfoote," 2s. 6d.; F. D., 6d.; E. S., 1s.; W. B., 2s.; "Arthur Bob," 2s. 6d.; "Shipping Clerk," 2s.; H. and N., 2s.; "Ruby," 2s. 6d.; "Bernard and Beryl," 4s.; G. H. (Cardiff), 2s. 6d.; "Joint," 2s. 6d.; P. H. R., 3s. 6d.; A. H., £1; W. K., 1s.; "Tommy," 1s.; "Betty," 10s.; F. H. H., 6d.; "Will," 5s.; "Jock," 1s.; "Scot," 6d.; "Ex-Matloe," 10s.; "Goodwill," 2s. 6d.; R. B., 2s. 6d.; "Sat," 2s. 6d.; R. S., 5s.; H. R., 6d.; "Jack Shay," 5s.; "The Widow's Mite," 6d.; "Wakefield," 1s. 6d.; M. J. G., £2 2s.; "Soldier" (Richmond), 10s.; Mrs. S., 1s.; "Bemi," 1s. 3d.; "Moonraker," 1s.; "Blacksmith," 1s. 6d.; "Margaret Ann," 2s. 6d.; A. L. O. E., 1s.; F. D., 1s.; S. B., 2s. 6d.; J. M., 2s. 6d.; "Baby Abe," 2s. 6d.; G. J. S., 2s. 6d.; G. S., 3s.; M. T. (Sedbergh), 2s 6d.; S. G., 1s.; A. C. S., 5s.; H. G. H. (Manchester), 2s. 6d., "Humility," 6d.; F. H., 4s.; R. S. G., 10s.; Mr. and Mrs. C. F. T., 5s.; T. R., 5s.; A. D., 2s. 6d.; E. K., 2s. 6d.; "The Midlands," 6d.; "Reader and Well-Wisher," 5s.; T. McC. (Lockerbie), 1s.; J. W., 1s.; Parcels of clothing, toys, etc., from J. J., E. E., Mr. and Mrs. C. F. T.; Messrs. J. S. Fry and Sons, Ltd., 1 gross milk chocolate, 1 gross vinello, 1 gross vanilla, 1 gross bundles, 1 gross bundles milk, 2 gross cream sticks, 1 dozen pocket knives and novelties; F. C., 1s.; "Well-Wisher," 10s.; "Bullite," 1s. 6d.; B. G. H., £2; Mr. and Mrs. E. H. P., 3s.; "Ilkley," 2s. 6d.; A. N. (Cowes), 2s.; S. F. C., 2s. 6d.; "Biddy," 1s.; F. N., 1s.; A. E. A., 21s.

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Our "Human Document" Fund	£500
London Poor Christmas Cheer	£500
Our Dumb Friends' League	£50
Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	£50
.. .. .. Children	£50
Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripples' Hampers Fund	£50
Referee Children's Dinner Fund	£50
Reynolds' Sandwich Men Fund	£25
Surgical Aid Society	£25
Sisters of Nazareth Poor Fund, Hammersmith	£10

CHEAP LIBERTY.

A PREFERENCE FOR PAPER LEADS TO PRISON.

At a recent session of the Lowestoft Bench, William Goodwin pleaded guilty to lodging in the open air "without visible means." P.C. Turner explained that prisoner had nary a copper in his possession—nothing but a pipe, a few matches, a plug of "baccy" and—three penny stamps. In fairness to the police, it should be observed that no "suggestion" was made by them with reference to William's possession of these etchings of his Majesty, it being graciously assumed that he had purchased them in "market overt," which is to say, at the counter of the neighbouring Post Office. For sleeping out, or rather for having no means to sleep in, William was sent to gaol for 21 days, during which time he will, of course, have no opportunity to repeat the horrid offence. Yet—and here is the nicety of the law—had the culprit refrained from purchasing those three stamps he would have retained possession of three pennies—legal tender—thrice visible means—in which case he might have slept out with comparative impunity. In the eyes of the Lowestoft Bench a man's liberty is worth exactly one penny per week.

LAYS OF A LOWLY LONDONER.

BY BILL THE 'BUSMAN.

THE STORY OF A BURST TYRE.

"Hallo! have you burst a tyre?"
It riles me, on my soul,
When a stupid flat asks things like that
Of a man who's in a hole.

We were there with the tyre in rags
Till the breakdown came along,
And an idiot stopped, his eyeglass dropped,
And he asked, "Is there anything wrong?"

I didn't know what to say
To the nosey-Parker chap:
He asked, "Are you mending it?" I said, ending it,
"No, sir, we're just playing nap."

Then, "How did it happen?" came next
From him with his brain in a fog,
And my work I cease and say, "If you please,
Because we ran over a dog."

Oh, the wonderful stare he gave!
His eyebrows went up higher,
And he said, "My word! First time I've heard
That a dog can burst a tyre!"

So then I warmed to my yarn:
"Tell you gospel truth I must;
I've killed a score, but never before
Has one of them caused a bust.

"But if you'll believe me, sir,
This was no natural tyke;
He sprang from the dark with an awful bark
As lively as you like.

"He headed straight for the 'bus,
But I didn't lose my nerve;
I chanced a skid, on my word I did,
With a sudden, slippery curve.

"I got clean out of his way,
But the brute he made me gape,
For again he came, with his eyes aflame—
This time there was no escape.

"He disappeared from my sight—
I thought he was clear at first—
But his bones I feels scrunch under the wheels,
And then—what a mighty burst!

"And that's how it happened!" said I,
But he said, "I can't yet see
How a dog crushed flat could puncture *that!*"
So then it was up to me.

"'Twas a wire-haired terrier, sir,"
I told him at that juncture;
"The dog, you're right, was harmless, quite
'Twas the wire that caused the puncture!"

ETIQUETTE FOR THE CHRISTMAS TABLE.

Don't ask the guest who stutters to say grace.

If you are served with the "drum-stick," don't make too much noise with it.

It is advisable to keep saucy things away from the parson's nose.

However sweet the girl next to you is, don't spoon the duck.

If there are dates at dessert, remember you are not an almanack.

Always read your cracker motto carefully before reciting it to the company.

Don't refer to the mince-pies as M.P.'s—there's no tongue in them.

Don't put the crackers too near a Nut.

Now that the war is over, the jokes about Greece and Turkey should not be served. Turkish Delight, however, need not be eschewed.

When the lights are lowered for Snap Dragon, be careful that you squeeze the right hand under the table.

£2.000 for First Round Forecasts. £1,000 must be Won.

CAN YOU SPEAK IN PUBLIC?

An Indispensable Guide to Public Speaking.

To one man the chance of making a speech affords the opportunity for an enhanced reputation; to another it is nothing but a danger. For the man who stutters and stammers, and finally sits down after a speech principally consisting of "ums" and "ers," scarcely enhances his reputation as a keen-witted member of the community or as a man whose intelligence and resource can be depended upon in a business crisis.

For that reason the publication of "The Book of Public Speaking" is an event of the greatest importance. For it is the first comprehensive work upon this important subject ever published in this country.

How to Speak in Public.

The whole work is edited by A. C. Fox Davies, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, who is himself well known as a Public Speaker, and he has been assisted by:

Rt. Hon. T. J. MACNAMARA, M.P. on "How to Make an Effective Speech";

Sir W. ROBERTSON NICOLL (Editor of the *British Weekly*) on "The Art of Oratory";

ARTHUR BOURCHIER. (the well-known Actor), on "How to Prepare and Deliver a Speech";

J. L. GRIFFITHS (U.S.A. Consul-General, London) on "After-Dinner Speaking";

A. C. BENSON, M.A., on "The Art of Lecturing";

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Altogether there is no doubt that Politicians, Debaters, Clergymen, and all others whose position in life calls for the power of being able to speak in public, will find "The Book of Public Speaking" an absolutely indispensable work. However unusual the subject upon which they lack material, they will find it here. Alike for the practised speaker and for the man who wishes to acquire this valuable art, no work so important has ever been published.

Two Opinions.

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"The speeches have been well chosen."

PHILIP SNOWDEN, Esq., M.P., writes:—
"The selection of speeches seems to me to be admirable. The introduction and the articles on the art of public speaking are full of very excellent advice."

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LEARNING MUSIC WITHOUT A TEACHER.

A Remarkable Letter.

"Dear Sir,—I must write and tell you what a tremendous help I am finding the Musical Educator. Being unable to have lessons for five months, I stopped all other work and diligently studied your exercises, with the result that my master cannot think what I have been doing to advance so much without him."

This remarkable letter from Mrs. E. Birch, of Lygon Place, Grosvenor Gardens, W., will be of considerable interest to the many readers of this paper who have wished they could play the piano or some other musical instrument, but have not been able to take lessons. It shows them that at last a book has been published which really does enable one to learn to sing or to play in one's own home without the expense and trouble of taking lessons.

FIRST PAYMENT 1/6 ONLY.

This book is the "Musical Educator," which any of our readers can obtain for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only. It provides in compact and interesting form a complete musical education, written by many of the greatest of modern authorities. To take personal lessons from them would mean paying extremely high fees, for they include such famous musicians as Paderewski, Mark Hambourg, Caruso, Clara Butt, Madame Marchesi, John Dunn, Edwin H. Lemare, Sir F. H. Cowen.

But these are only eight out of many sections of this remarkable work, and it is obvious that no reader who wishes to learn music or to improve his or her present knowledge can afford to be without the "Musical Educator," particularly when it can be obtained so easily and so cheaply. But in order that our readers may learn all about the work before actually buying it, the publishers have prepared an interesting illustrated booklet describing it in full, which they will send free of charge on receipt of the form below. It should be sent at once to avoid delay.

Two Opinions.

SIR J. FREDERICK BRIDGE (Organist at Westminster Abbey) says:—
"The Musical Educator is full of useful information plainly set forth. The musical illustrations are excellent."

Mr. CHAS. J. WINYARD, 29, Aberdeen Terrace, Tyne Dock:—
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ZOLA'S BEST NOVELS.

A Remarkable Edition.

First Payment 2/6 only.

It will be good news to many of our readers that a Selected Edition of "Zola's Best Novels" is being issued in English in a really worthy form. There has never been any doubt among those who appreciate the writings of the great French authors as to the literary value and enthralling interest of the works of the wonderful French realist, but it has hitherto been impossible to obtain a representative collection of his best novels in a worthy form at a moderate price.

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The edition now offered removes that difficulty. For the first time the greatest of Zola's masterpieces are given to the public of this country, so as to overcome once and for all the insularity and prejudice which have closed to the general reader a field of never-ending enjoyment.

The translation by Ernest A. Vizetelly preserves all the force and grim realism of the writer, and the selection of the Novels has been made with the greatest care, so as to include just the finest and best of Zola's Works. They comprise:—

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Germinal	Fruitfulness.	Paris.
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Abbe Mouret's Transgression.

Zola's Best and Greatest Work.

There lies crowded in these Novels, all Zola's best and richest work—the very heart and soul of Zola himself. Here are pictures of great moving masses of men and women, characters of flesh and blood, realism, terrible, wonderful in its fierce grim power, crushing indictments of fatal evils, passionate love for the poor, something of poignant pathos—all the grim irony of tragedy waged with a ruthless and inflexible courage.

Remarkable Illustrations.

Not the least important feature of the edition is the remarkable series of full-page photogravures that adorn the volumes. These are by such famous artists as Walter Paget, J. Cameron, Charles Clarke, Frank Gillett, Harry Rountree; and the artists have succeeded in no common measure in catching the very spirit of the great author they are illustrating.

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(Send this form or a postcard.)

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"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of INQUIRIES *received, consequent upon the continual growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

CORRESPONDENTS desiring INFORMATION *should place their questions in* CONCISE *form and refrain from sending* VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, *at any rate until asked for them. The Editor is quite unable to devote the time necessary for perusing and considering the scores of folios which correspondents sometimes send.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 984.

For Sporting Replies, see page 983.

MR. S. BROAD, of the Thornton Engineering Company, Bradford, wishes to be dissociated from the Mr. Broad referred to in our recent paragraph, "Too Eager," dealing with Monelles, Limited, also connected with the motor-car industry, of King William Street, E.C. We have pleasure in complying with his request.

"JOHN BULL, JUNR." (Long Acre).—Have the courage to send your name and address, and we will then deal with your letter.

A. L. C. (Sydenham).—We do not publish the names and addresses of senders of "Biscuit" material, as we were at one time asked by several of them not to do so. However, if a considerable number of those who forward such items indicate that they would prefer that we should announce these particulars, we shall be pleased to adopt that course. Will "Biscuit"-bakers kindly note?—such an intimation as "Please publish name and address" or "Don't publish name and address" would be sufficient. We will be guided by the majority.

"NIL DESPERANDUM" (Cardiff).—Why not send your name when giving utterance to so serious a suggestion? Our big "Bullet" prizes are always dispatched direct from the office, by crossed cheque, and the payments to the winners can therefore at any time be traced and proved.

"SHELLBACK" (Mon.).—You should place the facts before your trade union, who would probably make adequate representations on your behalf. If you do not belong to a union communicate with the Board of Trade, and if this is not successful you should club together and get a solicitor to act for you.

L. C. (Ardwick) wants to know what we think of I. A. Hardy and Co., Accountants and Debt Collectors, 70/72, Chancery Lane. Not much.

H. P. (Poona) tells us of shabby treatment at the hands of the Cantonment Magistrate. We are not surprised. From what we know of these chutney consumers most of them suffer with enlarged livers.

"ENGINEER" (Heysham Harbour) tells us of the long hours worked on the Midland steamers, and states that the Company know nothing whatever about the harsh conditions enforced by their "superior servants" stationed on the Quay. *Now*, they do.

"A COMPETITOR" (Bradford) and "A REGULAR COMPETITOR" (Nottingham).—Send us your names and addresses, and we will fully answer your questions.

D. McC. (Tottenham).—Sorry to hear you have to remove to Belfast. Have you bought a gun?

J. H. C. (Hornsey).—We know of no society *for* dental assistants, and the society *of* dental assistants is a thing to be avoided as long as possible.

R. C. (Bootle).—Accept our regrets that your opinion and ours on Jimmy Larkin as a Labour leader should differ so much. After all, however, our criticism of him is a mild one. We regard him merely as an ignorant and reckless platform blatherskite, with a swelled head.

C. W. H. M. (London, E.C.).—Your allegation is that "at a certain depôt of Pickford's, their bank staff start at 2 p.m. and work until 5 or 6 in the morning, and on several occasions they have worked from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 the next morning, for which they receive the small sum of 1s. 6d., and about once or twice 2s. 3d." What's the matter with the bank staff?

FAIRPLAY (Fulham).—Thanks. You think Jim Larkin "has got sort of intoxicated by his sudden rise," and that if we "give him a chance he will make a business Labour leader." Oh, well, if that's all he wants we'll give it to him, certainly.

C. R. (Bournemouth).—Of course we cannot refer to a tithe of the cases sent us for criticism. Thanks for your "Merry Christmas."

M. B. (Gracechurch Street, E.C.).—"Is not the distribution of the £100 000 Insurance surplus among the panel doctors a damnable robbery?" Even if we said it was, Mr. Lloyd George wouldn't believe us, and if we said it wasn't, you wouldn't.

"RAILWAY WORKER" (Hexham).—Though you are prepared to vouch for your statement that "the North Eastern Railway Goods Department, Hexham, pay the magnificent sum of 1s. 6d. per week to their office cleaner and deduct 3d. of it for Insurance," surely you must be mistaken?

H. J. H. (Birmingham).—Don't know name of Secretary and Chairman of *Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday*.

"WELLINGTON CREVAT."—If you have dealings with Glenville and Elliston, otherwise Cecil Watson (who has done time for obtaining money under false pretences), Theatrical Agents, now of Oxford Street, London, the chances are you will rue it.

W. W. (Longsight).—Because Smallman's, Limited, announce that they are going to open a new café and restaurant, with "Chess and Smoke Room Accommodation for Ladies," you think they take the biscuit. No, sir, the money.

J. F. P. (South Queensferry).—We fail to see why "a large number of dutiful and awe-stricken public servants" should be alarmed because the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue has changed his name from plain Bower to Nott-Bower. Only children, lunatics, savages, and fools fear that which is Nott.

J. M. B. (Callington).—We should say that the Callington Urban District Council are the employers of the stone-breakers, and are therefore responsible for the employers' Insurance contribution of 3d. a week.

"AN OLD READER" (Mansfield) wants to know whether *Tot's Weekly* is "a straight concern." Straight as a crooked sixpence.

"READER" (Baddesby) tells us that the local school was closed down for two days in order that the youngsters might go out with a shooting party as beaters. He thinks this is a grave scandal. Possibly, but surely that is the way to teach the young idea "to shoot."

"A COLONIAL READER" (Gainsborough) wants to know why we don't drive out of London "all the black hounds who are living in comfort on the degradation and misery of white women." If he will send us particulars of any specific case we will lose no time in the matter. General charges are very easily made.

"A SOBERTON READER."—As you do not choose to give your address, we have no alternative but to look on your letter as a tissue of scandal, and nasty scandal at that. Phew!

"CONSTANT READER" (Edinburgh).—Have you received the plume yet from the West End Ostrich Feather Co., of 207, Oxford Street, London, W., or had your 2s. returned?

J. LAMB (Arbroath) submitted an invention (an automatic lock) to the North British Railway Co., at the request of the General Manager, but was told that its chief fault was—expense. He now asks us what we advise him to do. He appears to have no alternative but to take it like a lamb.

F. H. (Rawmarsh) wants to know whether Councillor Carden himself supplied the anonymous free passes for his fellow Brighton councillors' recent pilgrimage to Germany to learn the way how to run an English watering place. We don't know. But it was somebody with more money than wits.

A. D. (Atherton).—We note that Prof. C. van de Zaar, of Holland, has informed you that "we are on the verge of entering the dark and dungenious months," and that he "predicted the *Titanic* didaster, the cruil and wicked attempt of assasin of a king," etc., *ad nauseum*, so we daresay he could foresee that you would not be such a fool as to send him that half-crown he is after.

Mark our Football Coupon just like a Voting Paper with an X.

"ART SCHOOL" (Birmingham).—If the facts regarding the school are as you state, your son should take proceedings for the recovery of his fee.

A. A. (Buntingford) doesn't know who her parents were, or whether they are alive or dead. We are sorry to say we are equally ignorant.

W. R. T. (Stoke Ferry) relates a dream he had about Sir Edward Carson, and says: "I suppose it is no use to you." His supposition is correct.

"DICK" (Boston Spa).—Mr. George Edwardes, of the Gaiety and Daly's, is the same George Edwardes who runs race-horses. On the whole, his plays run better than his goes. They are nearly all winners.

H. A. S. (Deptford Park, S.E.) is anxious to know the difference between "a lady and a woman." Does he want us to print the well-known rude reply?

G. D. (Leicester).—Your complaints against your late employer are purely personal, and we cannot deal with them.

"A CRUELTY HATER" (Eastleigh) writes: "Do any of your readers who wish for white veal know the awful suffering it entails on the calves?" We will let them answer for themselves.

H. W. R. (Gloucester) asks our opinion of the following advertisement from the Gloucester *Citizen*:—

> Wanted, an experienced girl, to clean, once a week, also to wash once a fortnight.

Some mistresses are easily satisfied. *Mary* always insists on our maid washing once a week, at the very least.

"ALPHA" (Wood Green).—You may try to get your 2s. deposit back from the Alhambra Warehouse, Free Street, Bradford, but we doubt very much that you will succeed. It would have been wiser to have spent the 2s. at the other Alhambra, Leicester Square way. You *would* have got value for money.

E. S. (Lambeth, S.E.).—Glad to hear you have got your 2s. deposit back from the British Clothing Club. You are one of the lucky ones.

G. B. sends us what he is pleased to call a "Guard Room Song," appropriately written in red ink. It is set to the tune of "The Gipsy's Warning," and the first verse runs as follows:—

> Do not risk it,
> Brave young soldier;
> Though your heart
> Be brave and true;
> Heed not those that
> Boast about it.
> For the Bars could tell a tale,
> For your life is in its Budness,
> Pluck not this your pretty flower;
> Listen to a soldier's warning,
> Brave young soldier risk it not.

And we advise G. B. not to risk it again, either. Apparently his poetic faculty is in its "budness" also, and requires nipping.

"BULLION" (Stoke Newington, N.).—So far as we can recollect, Mr. Joseph King's "Maternity Bill," for *Legitimation per subsequens matrimonium*, was slaughtered with the rest of the innocents at the end of last session.

A. B. (Ealing).—Glad you and your friends are ceasing to take Cowen and Sons' 2s. 4d. bonus (?) tea. It is a pity the law is too weak to punish people who prey on the poor as they and their kidney do.

"SALTA" (Camberwell, S.E.).—In the interest of public morality we cannot publish particulars of the Temple of Seirissim mentioned in our issue of September 13th last. If you are old enough, look it up in the British Museum Library.

MISS P. (Bristol).—As you signed the contract for the Bible in ignorance, and promptly returned the book, you may safely ignore all applications for payment. Such firms are very chary of going to Court, as their methods of doing business cannot stand exposure.

X. Y. 15 (Cork).—So far as we know, R. G. Dun and Co., The Mercantile Agency, of 55, West Regent Street, Glasgow, are an honest enough firm for people who care to have dealings with secret business inquiry agents.

"TERRA FIRMA" (Sandiacre).—We do not altogether identify ourselves with the views and sentiments expressed by the writer of our recent article "Harvest Thanksgiving," for we are aware that in many parts of the country and under many farmers, "Hodge" has by no means a bad time of it, all things considered.

L. H. (Vancouver).—Much obliged. You are about the 50th Canadian reader who has been kind enough to send us the address of Dick's store. You are a kindly people.

J. A. W. (Kirkcaldy).—We are too busy with our own Football Competitions to trouble about those of anyone else.

L. H. (Norbury) AND OTHERS.—Not being the judges of the "Phosferine" competition, we can give no opinion of the awards.

E. B. (Heywood).—The fine of £5 inflicted on the defendant in the child cruelty case was something less than heavy punishment certainly, but we are inclined to take the view of the magistrates, having regard to the serious faults of the child, that the man beat her in a fit of ungovernable anger—the brute!

J. M. G. (Altrincham).—There is much in your long letter *re* the heavy charges of railway companies for the luggage of "commercials" with which we agree. With you, too, we think "the time has arrived for railways to pay their men and prohibit gratuities," but why railway companies in particular? What about hotel companies, for instance?

"THE NATION'S SERVANT" (Torquay).—Your postcard received, but what the scrawl is all about, goodness alone knows. If you think you impress us by the labour-saving device of putting a tipsy spider in an inkpot and letting it conduct your correspondence after it has crawled out, you are mistaken.

A. G. R. (Somerset).—Enclosing us a primrose poster headed "For God, King, and Empire" announcing a meeting and whist drive, you say, "I cannot understand what connection God, King, or Empire has to do with one or the other." There are a lot of things we don't understand, which don't worry us.

R. S. (Stockwell).—"I have enclosed a coloured sketch that I think would be a witty thing to print in your book," said sketch being an ordinary pub. with an open door. It may be a joke, but we can't swallow it.

A. B. (Folkestone).—As you are unable to buy any tobacco, cigars, or cigarettes on Wednesday afternoons because publicans are prohibited from selling same while tobacconists remain closed, you say "Let the Town Clerk cancel the order at once." Certainly.

ARCHIE D. (Glasgow).—You have made such a mess of it in copying your letter that we can't read it. But never mind.

E. S. (Teddington).—We have frequently warned readers against the Alhambra Warehouse, Free Street, Bradford. Your only remedy is to sue them in the County Court.

"REX" (High Wycombe).—We reciprocate your good wishes.

MISS M. Y. (Frodsham).—All thanks. "Bull's Eyes" not quite up to standard. For instance, "The Corset Tango is somewhat the rage. Of corset is" merely repeats a pun which has been done 9,564,571 times this year.

R. C. H. (Beeston Hill).—A man who buys a thing for 20s. and sells it for 30s. makes 33 1/3rd per cent. on his turnover, not 50 per cent? To make 50 per cent. he would have to sell it for 40s. We cannot answer by post.

"ARTISTIC STUDENT" (Coatbridge).—We have no information about Percy V. Bradshaw's Press Art School, 37, Dacres Road, Forest Hill, S.E.

GLEN BAR (Belfast)—All we know is that Sir Edward Carson was a member of the National Liberal Club before, and we believe after, the introduction of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill. Whether he "gave £80 for mass for his late wife and was refused a hearing by the Belfast Orangemen about 1904" are questions we cannot answer. Why not write to Sir Edward himself?

R. W. B. (Peterborough).—Refer to the Clerk of your local Education Authority.

"LAUTAX" (Croydon).—We know nothing about the hair restorative merchants, who you tell us have disappeared from their old address. Perhaps they found a little fresh air advisable.

D. C. K. (Natal) tells us that our replies to South African correspondents "are like the last day of a six months' honeymoon." Now, we wonder what he means?

"OBSERVER" (Cheltenham).—You tell us that since the French Government nationalised the Great Western Railway of France the nation has lost upon it £6,000,000. Sorry.

"ENQUIRER" (Maesteg).—Put not your trust in debt collectors. Their commission is usually more than a County Court summons costs, whilst their labours are rarely so promptly effective.

"A LEAGUE MEMBER" (W. Australia) states that unless a workman belongs to a trade union he is unable to get a job in Western Australia, excepting on the land. Almost as bad as in England.

S. N. (Jarrow) doesn't appear to like our attitude towards Foreign Missions, and asks whether we have ever been "amongst the happy heathen of India to whom we give Gospels in their own tongues." No, not up to now. But we have been amongst the unhappy heathen of England who rightly have the first call upon our charity and missionary efforts.

G. A. (Brighton).—We have had more interesting dreams than yours when staying at Brighton, and it hasn't been through taking spirits overnight to cure a cold, either.

G. H. (Lincolnshire).—You will be wise to ignore the money-lender whose circular you send us.

A large number of replies are unavoidably held over.

Our £2,000 Football Christmas Box. See page 979.

Bull's Eyes.

JOHN BULL'S CHRISTMAS BOXES :—
To the Postmen—A bit in hand.
To Dr. Cook—A volume of *Truth*.
To the Premier—A "good" Ulster.
To Maud Allan—A "clothes" season.
To the Orangemen—More "big guns."
To Gaby Deslys—A "costume" piece.
To Lloyd George—A cheap deer forest.
To Harry Lauder—Some more "airs."
To Jim Larkin—A bit of "peace"-work.
To the Unionist Party—A sound platform.
To the Suffragettes—Some forcemeat stuffing.
To the Kaiser—A partial eclipse of the son.
To Bombardier Wells—An upper-cut—of beef.
To Our Readers—All they can wish themselves.
To Winston Churchill—An increase of "power."
To the Army Air Corps—A few feathers to fly with.
To the Bishop of London—A peep behind the scenes.
To the Cabinet—A copy of "Step This Way," autographed by Mr. Redmond.

* * *

MUDDLED MUSINGS :—
Fine feathers make fine bills.
Courage, like panic, is infectious.
A bird in hand often flies out of the window.
Confession is never made easier by postponement.
A bad conscience is the result of a poor digestion.
Silence is often the highest expression of appreciation.
One could accept middle age with dignity, if one only knew exactly when to do it.
Sins are created so that we pay the poll-tax to eternity—pay on this side of the ferry.
To the ancients, love was the aspiration of the soul for the beautiful—the ancient custom still exists.
Woman's usual memory is very defective, judging from the frequency with which she looks into a mirror.

* * *

A wonderful bird is the pelican,
Whose mouth holds more than its belican;
He puts food in his beak
To last a whole week,
I can't understand how the helecan.

* * *

Her stockings they were yellow,
When asked why, she'd say—and laugh—
"You know how every fellow
Worships the golden calf."

* * *

Why the waves are blue and sad
The poets have not told us yet;
Perhaps they sob, and feel so bad
Because they feel so very wet.

* * *

Don't waste time in your spare time.

* * *

Women seldom suffer untold agonies.

* * *

One cannot learn to live, until one has learnt to love.

* * *

The scratch of the pen is the only cure for the writer's itch.

* * *

We all buy experience, but few of us are wise enough to sell it back.

* * *

It is extraordinary how having to do a thing puts one off doing it.

* * *

The first microbe hasn't disclosed its identity yet—Bachelors hint at Eve.

* * *

A woman says things she doesn't mean; a man means things he doesn't say.

* * *

Impossibility is now an old-fashioned word with a definition but not a meaning.

* * *

The way of the transgressor *was* hard until the advent of corridor railway cars

* * *

Lacking is the name of the prospective Unionist candidate for Chorley. We hope he isn't.

* * *

"Gold in Custody," reads a news heading. It is certainly much safer locked up.

* * *

It is the girl with the low-necked dress that gets most looked down upon by her fellows.

Western says he is always outspoken in his wife's presence. He means out-talked.

* * *

One of the hardest things in this world to find is an honest partner for a swindle.

* * *

A bad custom is like a definite egg; it often manifests itself after it is thrown aside.

* * *

"Girl Typist Blown Up," reads a headline. The papers must be very short of news.

* * *

There are three kinds of husbands—good, bad and indifferent. The last is the most unbearable.

* * *

Dullness and imperspicuity are the privilege of the famous, the damnation of the diminutive.

* * *

The life of Shakespeare on the films has so enraged the Baconians that they all want to take it.

* * *

Hermann Popp, of New Jersey, has married for the third time in six years. Popp pops, and they pop off.

* * *

"I think that England may crumble," says Monsignor Benson. Certainly there is a lot of dry-rot about.

* * *

The best way to keep warm is to go round with a club, killing the fools who ask you if it's cold enough.

* * *

Summer is coming—"three swallows were seen in Lowestoft." And in the Strand you could not count them.

* * *

The corset parade at a West End music-hall has been withdrawn. Was it "too much of a good thing"?

* * *

A troop of mounted Boy Scouts is to be formed in Nottingham. This is turning "infantry" into cavalry.

* * *

Chocolate machines are proposed for the L.C.C. tramcars. As a "counter"-attraction to the motor-buses?

* * *

A morning paper is anxious to tell us "How Food is Faked." No, thank you. "Ignorance is bliss," sometimes.

* * *

General Huerta is said to be practically Dictator of Mexico. The United States would like to "take him down."

* * *

"Princess Mary, before returning to Sandringham, will spend a few days shopping." And, perhaps, some money.

* * *

A one-act play, entitled "The Mark of Cain," is by Warren "Killingsworth." We hope the execution was good.

* * *

There was a young lady of Slough,
Who said, "Now I'll just show you hough,
To 'Tango' with ease
As they do at the teas,"
But a button came off—wough-wough!

* * *

"What is the Dangerous Age?" asks a contemporary. Well, if you are a Cabinet Minister, the suffr-age, of course.

* * *

Mr. Adam, the Newcastle shipowner, has celebrated his golden wedding. Congratulations to Mr. Adam—and to Eve.

* * *

The bishop who, at Leeds, went on with his address although the gas failed, did the right thing; he made light of it.

* * *

The Prussian dentist who had to pay £60 damages for pulling the wrong tooth, now looks more down in the mouth than ever.

* * *

Well-connected girls are said to be competing for the post of kennel-maid. Society must really be "going to the dogs."

* * *

Wiesbaden is officially declared to contain more donkeys than any other German town. It is a favourite Society resort.

* * *

Standing treat: Scotch style.—During the festive season in Glasgow passengers will be allowed to stand in the tramcars.

* * *

All the poverty in London might be abolished if women could be persuaded to wear out their clothes instead of being worn out by them.

* * *

The castle of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin has almost been destroyed by fire. You cannot blame the Grand Duke for Schwerin.

* * *

Jerusalem will shortly be lighted by electricity and possess a fire engine—non-stop cars on the "Zion and Dead Sea Railway will no doubt take anyone to "Jericho."

"Bullets"—a profitable pastime for Christmas. Prizes value over £2,000.

£2,000 FOR 20 CORRECT RESULTS

In any event

£1,000 MUST BE WON

Must be won

£600 FOR NEAREST CORRECT SHORT OF FULL NUMBER.

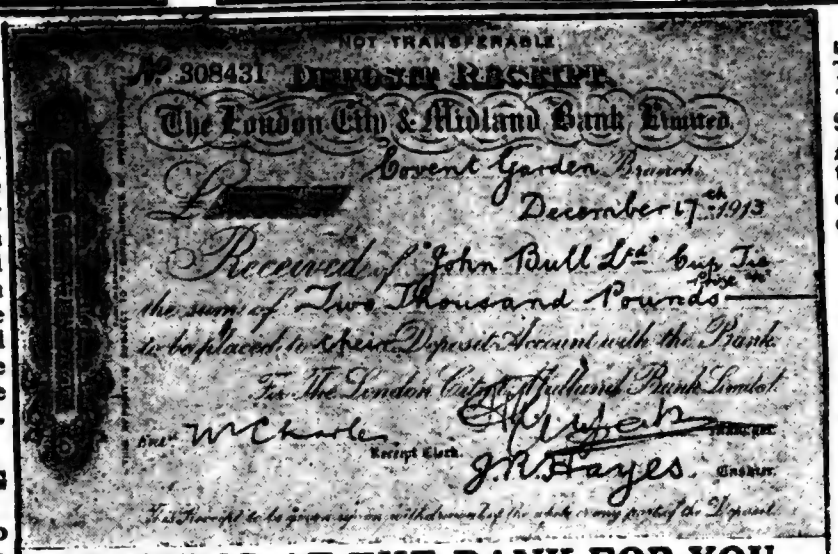
£300 FOR NEXT HIGHEST CORRECT.

£100 FOR MOST CORRECT FORECASTS ON MAUVE COUPON.

We give this week the Second Coupon in our Great First Round Cup Tie Contest — with mammoth prizes surpassing any offer ever made by ourselves or any other periodical. In view of the certain enormous demand for next week final coupon competitors should not fail to use the second coupon in this issue. Below we give particulars of these Record Football prizes, but in the first place would draw the special attention of our competitors to our

NEW WAY OF MARKING THE ENTRANCE FORM

which we have adopted to further safeguard the interests of our competitosr


NOT TRANSFERABLE
No. 308431 DEPOSIT RECEIPT.
The London City & Midland Bank Limited.
Covent Garden Branch.
December 17th 1913
Received of John Bull Ltd Cup Tie Prize Fund
the sum of Two Thousand Pounds
to be placed to their Deposit Account with the Bank.
For The London City & Midland Bank Limited
Manager
Cashier
J. R. Hayes.
Accountant
This Receipt to be given up when withdrawal of the whole or any portion of the Deposit is made.

WAITING AT THE BANK FOR YOU.

As stated above the matches selected are the First Round Cup Ties to be played on Saturday, January 10th, the competition closing Friday, January 9th.

On the left-hand side of the Entrance Form will be found 3 columns headed respectively, "Home," "Away," and "Draw." When forecasting the results of the matches, if you predict the Home team will win—simply put in ink a X in the space provided in the Home column; if you predict the Away team to win—put a X in the away column; if you forecast a "Draw," put a X in the Draw column. Thus there is no crossing out to do—just mark the coupon like a voting paper—with a X. The following examples show the new method at a glance:—

LOOK AT THESE EXAMPLES.

Home	Away	Draw	Home Team		Away Team
X			Bradford	v.	Reading
	X		Glossop	v.	Everton
		X	Hull City	v.	Bury

Take the above examples—if you predict Bradford, who are playing at home, to win, you must put a X in the Home column; if you predict Everton, who are playing Away, to win, you must put a X in the Away column; if in the case of Hull City v. Bury you predict a Draw, put a X in the Draw column.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

is to forecast the results of the 20 matches given on the Entrance Form on page 2 of our cover. Before making your forecasts read carefully the new method of marking the coupon as explained above.

The RULES and

COUPON

Will be found on Page 2 of Cover.

As announced in our last issue, Messrs. Smallman & Terry, the managers of the "John Bull" Football Cup Sweepstake have contributed £750 to our prize fund and therefore we are enabled to offer the colossal and record cash prize of

£2,000 FOR 20 CORRECT RESULTS.

The £2,000 will be paid to the competitor sending us an entrance form containing correct forecasts of all the 20 matches given which are played to a finish. If, owing to bad weather or other causes, a match is not completed, it will be disregarded —thus

ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

Should it happen that no entrance form be received giving the whole of the correct results we shall in any event award the huge sum of **£1,000** in three distinct "Must-be-won" prizes, as follows:—

If no competitor forecasts the 20 matches correctly we shall pay the cash prize of **£600** to the sender of the most correct forecasts whatever the number—even if only 8 or 10, and a second prize of **£300** to the sender of the next highest number of correct forecasts. In addition we shall pay a cash prize of **£100** for the most correct forecasts sent on a Mauve Coupon taken from MARY BULL. This is a distinct and additional prize—a Mauve Coupon signed by a lady, means the sender has the opportunity of winning not only the £2,000, or £600 and £300, but also **an extra £100.** Thus in any event

£1,000 MUST BE WON.

The competition is one of pure skill, and a test of knowledge of form. Competitors should make a point of studying the Football columns of the newspapers.

Our elaborate checking arrangements and our new method of marking the coupon safeguard the interests of our competitors in every way and render even an attempt at fraud impossible. The risk of a coupon being overlooked is totally eliminated.

YOU CAN SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS YOU LIKE.

£100 FOR A "MAUVE" COUPON.

We again offer a Special and Extra Mauve Coupon Prize. This time £100 will be paid for the best forecast sent on a Mauve Coupon taken from "Mary Bull" and signed by a lady. Competitors using the Mauve Coupon have the opportunity not only of winning the £2,000 or the £600 or £300, but also an additional £100 prize. The Second Mauve Coupon appears in "Mary Bull" on sale Wednesday next December 24

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 936, where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize £500 in cash is offered this week, in addition to more than 5,323 cash and other prizes value over £2,000.

THE "JOHN BULL" FOOTBALL CUP SWEEPSTAKE.

We have again to say, in reply to numerous inquiries, that we cannot receive applications for tickets in this Sweep. They must be posted direct, not later than December 29th, to MESSRS. SMALLMAN & TERRY, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND. We have satisfied ourselves that the full amount of the prize money, £15,000, is already lodged in a leading London bank, and our Editor will attend the Draw, on January 2nd.

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

M. GEORGES CARPENTIER.

Mornin', sir. . . . Jest in time, sir. . . . Set 'ere, if you please. . . Eh? . . . Beg pawdon, sir, but wot didjew say? . . . Razzle yore barb? . Wot's thet, sir? We don't do nuthink like thet 'ere, sir. . . . Oh, I see, sir—you want a shave. (*Wy the 'ell couldn't 'e say so at first?*) . . . Nice day, sir. . . . Bow Tom, didjew say, sir? . . No, sir. I don't know 'im. . . . Eh? . . Oh, I see, sir—thet's French fur nice day, is it? (*Wot a silly blinkin' langwidge—Bow Tom!*) . . . It sounds more like the *nom de plum* of a bruiser, don't it, ser?—*nom de punch*, so ter speak. . . . Eh? . . . Come again, if it ain't troublin' you, ser. . . . *Jer suis boxeur*—is thet it? . . . Oh, I see—you're a Swiss boxer. . . . Eh? . . . Oh, thet's it, is it? . . . Swiss is French fur 'am. . . . W'ich 'am, sir—jew mean 'I *h*am,' or the 'am wot chew makes sangwidges of? . . . I see—the verb 'I *h*am.' . . . You mean you're a boxer. . . . Wot's thet?—You aim bowcoo la box? (*Wot's 'e mean nah?*) . . . I see—you aim fur the boko w'en you box. . . (*Lummy, I sh'l tork French in 'arf a jiff if I goes on like this!*) . . . I understand, sir; but thet's wot I don't like erbout boxin'—there's a bit too much boko erbout it ter please me; an w'en it ain't boko it's car'ole. . . . But thet reminds me—you don't 'appen ter be Mister Carpenter, wot knocked aht the Bombadier t'other day at the National Sportin' Club, do yer, sir? . . . I beg yore pawdon, didjew say 'we'? . . No, not we—*you*. . . . Oh, 'we' means yes, does it? . . . Then we—we means yes—yes, I take it? (*Crimes,*

wot a langwidge!) . . . So you *aw* Carpenter . . . Well I'm prard to 'razzle yore barb,' as you calls it, sir. (*Better be careful 'ow I go with this bloke, else 'e'll be makin' a beeline fur me solar perplexus, or suthink.*) . . . Well, you've give us a narsty knock, sir, but it wosn't wotchew calls a good fight, wos it, sir? . . . Eh? . . "Pa do two," didjew say? . . . Oh, yore pa could do two, could 'e? . . . Wot, one with each 'and, like? . . . Eh? . . . You agree that it wosn't a good fight . . . . Now, I looks at it like this: You 'ad sich a neesy job thet yore repyertashun ain't won nuthink by it. . . You might jest as well 'ave knocked a punchin' ball orf its 'ook in 'arf a rahnd, an' called yerself Champion of Europe on the strength of it. . . . *You* didn't beat Wells—'e beat 'isself. An' 'e beat 'isself cos the noospapers kep' on tellin' 'im 'e didn't stand a nearthly before the fight. . . They told 'im 'e wosn't a fighter, 'adn't got the spirit, wos a blinkin' bundle o' nerves, and a lot more hincouragin' things like that. Insteader w'ich they oughter 'eartened 'im up, an' told 'im 'e wos shore ter win. I reckon the noospapers played a low dahn game on Wells—speshly Stephen Black, the bloke wot wrote in the *Daily Mail*. . . . Don' chew agree wi' me, sir? . . . Wot's thet?—Jinny Comprong's pa? . . . Wot's 'e gotter do with it? An 'oo's Jinny Comprong w'en she's doin' the corset perade in 'er private apar ment? . . . Oh, you don't understand wot I'm torkin' 'erbout. . . . You oughter learn English, sir; you'd find it very useful. . . . I don't know wot I should do withaht it. . . . Thet's it, sir. . . . Eh? . . . 'Oo's a pore bore? (*Well, I'm blow'd! Calls me a pore bore, an' shoves a fanner in me 'and!*) Good-day, sir. . . . Bow Tom, ain't it?

"JOHN BULL" MAKES HISTORY.

SPASM I.

When Alfred the Great made the lady irate
By doing her cakes rather brown,
Our History shows, if he didn't get blows,
He, at least, got a good "dressing down."
I may be deceived, but I've never believed
That she raved at poor Alf for a fool.
In my humble view, I think, now, don't you,
That she sat down and wrote to JOHN BULL?

ERUPTION II.

Now, some got a fright when full into sight
Of Britain the Armada came,
But Admiral Drake with never a quake
Quite calmly continued his game.
Other dangers he'd braved, and when others raved
He kept quite collected and cool,
Said, "Steady, boys, steady. For them I'm quite ready.
I got warned months ago by JOHN BULL."

ATTACK III.

Sir Walter Raleigh was awfully "pally"
With her Majesty Bess, the Good Queen.
And the reason that he was so favoured, you see,
Was because he had kept her shoes clean.
Now, Walter was wily, as with a smile he
Laid down his cloak beauti-ful.
He well could afford it. He'd just been awarded
A first "Bullets" Prize by JOHN BULL.

If Rheumatism racks your bones
Get a box of "Sanadones."

Mr. J. Biggs, 47, Glendare Street, Barton Hill, Bristol, writes:—

"I solemnly declare that I have suffered from Rheumatism for 20 years, and have never been one day free from pain during the last 7 years. Then I got some 'Sanadones,' which completely cured me in a few days. Nor have I had any return, although I am constantly out of doors in wet weather. My sufferings for so many years were terrible, and hospitals and doctors could do me no good. 'Sanadones' are wonderful."

"Sanadones" are sold by all branches of Messrs. Boots', Taylor's Drug Co., Ltd., Timothy White, Lewis and Burrows', Hodder, Cockburn, and Spite, at 2s. 9d. per box. All other high-class Chemists stock "Sanadones" or will gladly get them for you.

Star SAFETY RAZOR

As the BLADE So the SHAVE

The "STAR BLADE" is the result of 38 years' experience and research. The life of a safety razor blade is a point to be considered.

The majority need replacing after a few shaves—Expensive! The First Cost is the Last with the "STAR" BLADE and it will shave you in Luxurious Comfort for MANY YEARS.

Set as illustrated, with silver plated frame and knurled handle in velvet lined case. Of all Cutlers, or from

7 6 POST PAID. MARKT & Co. (Lon.) Ltd. (Dept. J.B.), 93/100, Clerkenwell Rd., London, E.C.

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CHAUFFEUR or qualify for any position in the Motor Industry!

If so we advise you to apply AT ONCE to the British Motor Industry's training centre. POPULAR COURSE of unlimited practical instruction in Motor Car Driving, Mechanism and running repairs on the road until you state in writing that you are satisfied and proficient. Lowest inclusive Fee. Highest Standard training. This Course entitles you to the certificate and free introduction to positions through the B.S.M. Employment Department licensed LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL. No extra Charges. Call or send a postcard for free prospectus (J).

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF MOTORING,
Coventry House, 5 Coventry Street, Piccadilly Circus, London, W.

VICTORY OVER THE DRINK HABIT

SEND FOR MY FREE BOOK AND LEARN HOW YOU CAN CONQUER THE DRINK HABIT IN YOURSELF OR ANOTHER. LET THE YEAR 1914 BE THE BEGINNING OF A NEW AND PROSPEROUS PERIOD FOR YOU AND YOURS.

WOODS' GENUINE TREATMENT FOR DRINK HABIT HAS BROUGHT HAPPINESS TO THOUSANDS OF HOMES.

NO MORE DRUNKENNESS.

Frequently large sums are paid for treatment in inebriate homes, institutes, etc., yet the use of alcohol is abandoned only for a brief period, and the drinker afterwards takes the Woods' Treatment with lasting benefit.

My system consists of two forms of treatment—A and B. My A Treatment is guaranteed to prove effective in only three days, if the drinker willingly takes the treatment. My B Treatment is the secret method, which gradually causes a detestation of drink, so that the person hates even the odour of it.

The Woods' Method is endorsed by medical men, by the clergy, and by thousands of persons who owe their present happiness to the Woods' Method. It is easy to take, and is a perfect treatment, which can be taken without loss of time, and with marvellous effect upon the general health

Drunkards Can Be Secretly Saved.

Read about what is being accomplished, and learn that no matter what you have tried in the past, you can now succeed. Gentle, safe, guaranteed method.

Mrs. Bennett, Bradford, writes: "I am pleased to say my husband is still all right. **He has not taken any intoxicating drink for over a year.** I am very glad I used your Secret Treatment; I shall recommend it whenever I can."

Mrs. L. A. Brown, Huddersfield, reports: "My husband's remark a few weeks ago, 'I am very thankful I am a teetotaler,' will sufficiently endorse all I said in gratitude and praise of your **splendid Secret Treatment,** which I used two years ago."

Mrs. E. Warne, Birmingham, writes: "I am really thankful to tell you my **husband has had no drink** since using the B Treatment I had from you (more than a year ago). I feel very grateful to you. He looks so well and strong, and is respected by all. I recommended your Treatment to two others who I know used it with success."

Mr. F. Welsh, Huddersfield, reports: "I am pleased to inform you that the B Treatment sent me for secret use for a brother-in-law of mine has been **quite successful.** I have had a letter from him in which he says he has given up entirely alcoholic drink."

Mrs. E. Selling, Dorset, writes: "I am very pleased to tell you that your B Treatment has rid my husband of the drink habit. He has no desire for any kind of drink now. It has **made quite a changed man of him,** and he is much better in health."

Miss A. Sims, Hampshire, writes: "I am pleased to say that your B Treatment has been a complete success in the case of my brother. He has now no inclination to touch intoxicating drinks, and we wish we had obtained your secret treatment before."

Tobacco Habit.—A guaranteed remedy. Write asking especially for my book on Tobacco Habit. You can easily give up tobacco and enjoy better health.

Hundreds of References that you can write to will be sent with my Free Book in plain wrapper.

BOOK FREE.

If you know anyone who drinks alcohol in any form, regularly or periodically, let me send my FREE BOOK, "Confessions of an Alcohol Slave" It reveals something important, explains how you can quickly overcome addiction to alcohol in yourself or another.

I drank beer at first, then gradually developed into a drinker of strong liquors. For long periods I drank over a bottle of whisky, rum, or gin daily. For 16 years I kept it up, and I was regarded as a hopeless case. But now I have a joyful message for drinkers and their

MOTHERS, WIVES, SISTERS,

While drifting from bad to worse, as all slaves of King Alcohol do, I unexpectedly found a true cure. It saved my life. My cure took three days; if I had relied upon my own will power or faith I should still be a drunkard, because an alcohol slave has no will power while drinking. I rejoiced so greatly at having found a true method that I decided to devote my life to removing the curse from others. My success has been marvellous.

ABSOLUTELY FREE.

I tell about the secret in my book, FREE to every person (or relative or friend) who takes alcohol in any form to excess. With the book I send a legion of testimonials and references that you can write to. The Treatment is supplied under legal guarantee, I offer £2,000 *Reward* for a better method than mine.

I will send you my book in plain wrapper, promptly, post paid. Correspondence strictly confidential.

THE 3 DAYS' METHOD.

Are you a drinker? Do you wish to cure yourself? If so, here's my hand, my warmest sympathy and my positive assurance that within 72 hours after you obtain my treatment you will be better satisfied with yourself than ever in your life. You will not be sick during my 3 Days' Treatment; you need lose no time; nobody will know what has caused you to give up drink for ever unless you choose to tell. You can enter public-houses, or even pour out whisky, without feeling the slightest temptation. Think of what you waste in money, think of how your life is being shortened. You can do wonderful work if not drinking. My A Treatment is what you need. If you have made the mistake of buying something which has done or is doing no good, abandon it, and get the true method, which overcomes the drink habit in 72 hours by the clock.

JOYOUS TESTIMONY OF FORMER DRINKERS.

Mr. John Ardern, Pontefract, Yorks, writes: "I thank you for the good your A Treatment has done me in **ridding me of the craving for drink,** and I can confidently say that it is years since I felt so well as I do at present."

Mr. Thos. Reed, Hailsham, Sussex, writes: "It is now **three years since I took your A Treatment** for the drink habit, and I am glad to be able to tell you that I have neither had nor wanted a drop of any kind of strong drink since."

Mr. P. McHugh, Leeds, writes: "I have not tasted alcoholic liquor of any description since I took your A Treatment some six months ago, **nor have I had the least craving or inclination** to take intoxicants. Your Treatment does all you claim for it."

Mr. Mathew Riley, Bradford, Yorks, writes "My desire for strong drink was great before I took your A Treatment, and I never missed an opportunity of getting drink as long as I had money. But since taking your A treatment I am glad to say that **I feel as 'fit as a fiddle,'** and shall always recommend the treatment."

Nurse Fisher, Cornwall, writes: "I am delighted to tell you the patient who took your A Treatment is **doing splendidly in every way.** There is a marked improvement in his general health. In fact, he is looking ten years younger. I really cannot express my gratitude for your wonderful discovery."

Mr. T. West, Doncaster, writes: "After taking your A Treatment I am thankful to say that it fully justifies your confidence in curing the drink habit. I can go into the club and look at the papers **without the slightest thought of having a glass of alcohol,** and I am sure that I have never felt so **clear in brain** and memory for years."

Mr. W. Chandler, Rowlands Castle, Hants writes: "I am glad to say that I still keep from intoxicating drinks after taking your A Treatment, and this is now **two years ago. I thank you a thousand times** for what your Treatment has done for me. I can assure you my health is greatly improved since I gave up the drink."

EDWARD J. WOODS, 10, Norfolk Street (306 AF), London, W.C.

CITY NOTES.

[*For Financial and Insurance Letter-Box, see page 984.*]

The Stock Markets.

There is no doubt that the Consol market is being overwhelmed by new issues, present and prospective, and nothing will apparently stop the premier security from going to about 70. The financial position in Montreal is still very doubtful, and has no doubt assisted the fall in Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks. The disorganisation of Brazil Rails has been anticipated over and over again in this column, and we are quite prepared for the passing of the deferred dividends. Nor is there any sign of daylight in connection with Mexican affairs, and it must be a very long while before the financial position in Mexico can right itself. The outlook in the United States is still very involved, and the latest Receiverships are not calculated to improve matters. Home Rails are doing little more than mark time, although the tendency is firm, in anticipation of favourable dividends. Mines are showing a little more backbone, the Kaffir dividends being quite as good as had been anticipated under the circumstances, and the native labour position is gradually improving. The Rubber market is suffering from the slackening of trade, but the oil market is able to count upon a shortage of oil fuel supplies, and the possibility of a further sharp rise in prices early in the New Year.

Canada's Road to Ruin.

Canadian borrowing this week has been confined to a trumpery issue of £156,400 Calgary Power bonds—just a belated straggler out of many that will try to get home before the doors are closed, bolted and barred, at least temporarily. But the position is already so desperate that the closing of the gates must come earlier than was anticipated, shutting out numerous urgent borrowers and helping to precipitate a crisis that cannot be long postponed in any case. The latest compiled statistics show that during the current year Canadian State and Municipal loans issued in London have aggregated about £24,000,000. Railway emissions account for £32,000,000, and borrowings for Industrial concerns have been £5,000,000, making a total of over £61,000,000 in less than twelve months. As a matter of fact, this figure does not show the whole amount raised because several share issues are omitted, and in the case of Railways the Canadian Pacific stock representing £12,000,000 nominal, actually produced over £21,000,000, the issue being made at 175. Against that the latest creation of Land Certificates is taken at £10,400,000, whereas it will produce only £8,500,000, but making all allowances Canada will have raised about £70,000,000 in London this year. That is a stupendous amount, which it is quite impossible for a population of between seven and eight million people to use profitably in twelve months. If any further proof of the horrible condition of Canadian finances were required it may be found in the latest returns of Canadian foreign trade. In the two years ended June 30th last, Canadian imports exceeded exports by nearly £110,000,000, and as in addition the Dominion has to find at least £25,000,000 a year for interest, freight, insurance, etc., there is a deficiency of about £160,000,000 (probably more) which has to be found sooner or later. That is to say, Canada must pay by its exports of merchandise for its imports and also for its interest, freight and other charges, and until its exports at least approximate the amount of its imports it must be getting deeper and deeper into the mire.

Domes of (Great) Silence.

Commenting last August on the (New) Plantoids promotion of Mr. Henry Mathew Alleyn, we asked what had become of the Domes of Silence, Ltd., another venture brought before the public by that gentleman. The answer has just come to hand. The company has now held its third ordinary meeting, Mr. Alleyn presiding, and it then transpired that there has actually been a net profit during the year of £800, as against a loss of £252 for 1911-12. The prospectus of the company, issued in 1910, stated that the vendors, who received £45,000, had made a profit of £3,686 during 1909, and that profits at the rate of £11,500 per annum had been made during the first quarter of 1910. The directors estimated yearly profits of "at least 20 to 25 per cent." for the company. At the meeting a shareholder inquired if there was a probability of the company ever paying a dividend, and Mr. Alleyn replied "it was quite impossible to say." Mr. Alleyn has evidently given up the business of prophet since he pocketed his vendor's consideration, and the company has followed suit as far as divisible "profits" are concerned.

Eagle Assurance Co.

Changes in connection with this old-established Company are proceeding apace. Mr. Jellicoe, the general manager, who retires, has been elected to a seat on the Board—a graceful and well-deserved compliment—after nearly fifty-one years' service. The new general manager and actuary is Mr. F. B. Galer, B.A., F.I.A., who has acted as assistant secretary to the Norwich Union. We had, however, expected that from among the staff of the Eagle a gentleman would have been found not only competent to carry on the work, but to lead in a strenuous campaign, which must be undertaken if the Company is to make its mark in the future as a progressive and influential Life Office.

"We-are" Puffers.

On the 4th inst., Weare and Co., of Broad Street House, E.C.—who fail to state what they are, but whom the Telephone Directory describes as "merchants"—hired a full column in the *Daily Telegraph*, in which they puffed the shares of the Pacific Petroleum, Ltd. then standing, it was alleged, at 20s. 6d. to 21s. 6d. It was stated that "Weare and Co." considered "the shares cheap at 40s. per share, and that a rise in price is certain very shortly to take place." The response could not have come up to expectations, for we find another column advertisement from the same people, in the same paper, on the same matter, on the 8th. All mention of a quotation for the shares has been dropped in this later puff, but "Weare and Co." affirm that they have "no hesitation in saying that investors at the present time in oil shares, and in Pacific Petroleum in particular, will have no reason to regret having purchased shares while they are still obtainable at the present quotation." This may or may not be. We incline to the latter view; but if Messrs. "Weare and Co." are contemplating spending further money in advertising, they might inform us what became of the Pacific Petroleum, Ltd., registered in 1911, and whether the present company is the same as the previous one, or how it came to adopt the same title We ask the question because the entire directorate and officers of the previous company have disappeared, and a fresh set of directors and officers is now in power.

Cinema Finance.

We draw attention, once more, to the continued creation of companies formed for the purpose of working picture theatres. Forty-eight of these, having an aggregate capital of £209,800, were registered during October, bringing the total of companies for the first ten months of this year to 438, and an estimated total for the year of 530. Thus, allowing for summer and other holidays, two cinema companies have been formed on an average every working day of this year. Having regard to the fact that several old-fashioned companies of this class are returning poor dividends, that many later ones have come to an inglorious end, and that hardly a town or village in the Kingdom does not already possess one or more of these places, we would again warn readers not to support any fresh ventures of this class without fully satisfying themselves that they are likely to succeed in face of the strenuous competition that has to be encountered.

The Responsibilities of the Public Trustee.

Since the establishment of the office of Public Trustee, having regard to the extensive and increasing work which is being performed by that functionary and his staff, we have taken occasion to draw attention to the success which has been achieved by the department. The responsibilities cast upon it are very great, and an instance of how necessary it is that every care be taken by them not to permit incorrect deductions from their acts, serves to illustrate the point. The Public Trustee had occasion recently to agree that his co-trustee of an estate should invest £1,000 in the recent Canadian Government Loan, by purchase on the market. The co-trustee misread the instructions to mean that he might apply for an allotment, and, upon this becoming known to the Public Trustee, he advised that the application be withdrawn. Thereupon a rumour was set afloat and circulated by a News Agency that the Public Trustee had "advised a number of would-be investors to withdraw their applications for the loan," and the market was in consequence greatly disturbed. "Bears"—and there are many about—were no doubt delighted to take advantage of this mistake on the part of the Agency, and we trust that *canards* as to what the Public Trustee does or does not do in the way of investing money will not be added to their stock-in-trade in future.

The Ideal Christmas and New Year's Gift—a "John Bull" Pen.

KUBELIK'S ADVICE TO MUSICIANS.

How to Obtain a Perfect Command of Technique Without Years of Drudgery.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL PIANISTS, VIOLINISTS & 'CELLISTS

A great opportunity is given this Christmas to all pianists, violinists, and 'cellists, and lovers of music.

It is an opportunity to obtain a perfect command of technique without the years of drudgery and soul-wearying hours of practising scales and arpeggi that have hitherto been essential.

Indeed, by following this wonderful method the musician gains more from 10 minutes' exercise than he has hitherto been able to gain from hours of continuous practice. What is the object of continuous practice, this endless repetition of scales and exercises which hitherto the musician has had to submit himself to?

It is simply to render supple and flexible the nerves and muscles of the arm, the hand, and the fingers, and to give them strength and accuracy.

These results must be secured if the musician is to improve his technique and obtain a complete mastery of his instrument.

Paganini's Technique.

"Paganini's command of technique," says the great violinist Kubelik, "which so astonished the world in his day that it was attributed to the influence of the Evil One, must now be considered part of the equipment of every modern virtuoso."

"*I make this statement,*" he concludes, "*simply to illustrate the advance made in the science of the art.*"

So great is this advance that it is now recognised that the hand and arm and fingers can be trained to all that extraordinary degree of suppleness and responsiveness required for the possession of a perfect technique without the hours and years of weary drudging practice hitherto considered necessary.

Scientific training is rapidly replacing the drudgery of scales and arpeggi practice. By ten minutes' practice every day, away from the instrument, musicians are now being enabled to quadruple their executive ability and to acquire a perfect technique.

The Cowling System.

The method which is bringing about this great revolution in musical education is entitled the "Cowling" System, a discovery which has won the praise of musicians in every part of the world.

This remarkable system, a feature of which is its extreme simplicity, perfectly trains the hand, the wrist and the fingers in power, flexibility, responsiveness and control, with an entire absence of all the superfluous motions and waste effort involved in practice upon the instrument itself.

The deadening drudgery and maddening monotony of practising scales and arpeggi are entirely done away with. By devoting ten minutes each morning and evening to the "Cowling" System you will do more towards acquiring a perfect technique than you could do by practising the piano, violin, or 'cello for five hours a day.

The benefits derived by musicians from this system are shown by the following extracts from the many letters received by the "Cowling" System.

FOURTH FINGER WEAKNESS.

Before taking up your method I was in despair over the weakness of my fourth finger on left hand, and when I wanted to play B natural on the E string I always used to take that note in the third position, but now I can stretch with ease up to C natural on the same string. If violinists only knew the benefit to be derived from your methods I feel sure they would one and all avail themselves of your generous offer. I found the lesson on the Vibrato very interesting, and will have great pleasure in recommending your methods to all instrumentalists.—CAPTAIN F. POTTS, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

FROM A PIANIST.

I wish to acknowledge the great benefit I have derived from your course of finger development. My only regret is that I did not take it up some years ago, as it would have saved me a great amount of drudgery The thumb and fourth finger exercises I consider invaluable.—C. GAMBLER, Tottenham.

STUMBLING-BLOCK REMOVED.

I would like to say that your system has far exceeded my expectations, and since I first took lessons on the 'cello have never received such excellent results with so little study My third finger in particular, which has always been a stumbling-block, is so far improved as to be worth the whole cost of the lessons. Wishing you every success in your undertaking.—P JACKSON, Liverpool, 'Cellist.

FINGERING IMPROVED.

The lessons you have already sent me for my son have improved his fingering wonderfully. Although so young (13) he seems to master his studies easier and to play in all positions much better. I have had over 20 years' experience with music and think your system a great blessing to violinists.—W MARSH, Barrow.

A PIANIST'S PRAISE.

I am glad to testify that after taking your course of lessons my pianoforte playing has improved quite 500 per cent., and I can attack difficult pieces and play them in a way I never dreamed of. They are invaluable, and worth a great deal more than the fee charged.—A. DEMERING, Ealing.

WONDERFUL IMPROVEMENT.

The improvement in my left hand is wonderful. I have gained an independent use of each finger that I have never known before. What I used to regard as difficult fingering is now quite simple, and I am practising music which a month ago I thought I should never touch.—A. W. JENNINGS, London, W., Violinist.

No Apparatus required.

A great advantage of the "Cowling" System is that it employs no apparatus and can be practised at any time, anywhere, in your own home, when travelling by train or tram, or even when out walking.

It is of the utmost value to professionals and to amateurs alike. It abolishes all weakness and difficulties in technique, gives you a complete mastery of your instrument without years of practice, and gives you absolute freedom to devote your whole mind and soul to the charm of interpretation.

Christmas Gift for Music-Lovers.

Christmas is essentially a time of music, and what more appropriate present could you give to yourself than this wonderful musical technique-developing system. It is a present that will give enjoyment to yourself and your friends for the rest of your life. The special opportunity given to you to-day is to secure the advantages of the Cowling system at half the usual fee.

Book of Particulars Free.

On filling up the following form and forwarding it to the Manager, The Cowling Institute, Museum Station Buildings, High Holborn, London, W.C., you will receive by return, gratis and post free, a photographically illustrated brochure, giving full particulars of this remarkable method and showing you how you can secure for yourself the marvellous benefits it gives for half the usual fee. Write for these free particulars, with further letters from musicians, to-day.

Foreign and Colonial Readers.

A proportion of the half-fee enrolments will be reserved for readers of JOHN BULL who reside abroad, and allowance will be made for the length of time which must elapse in certain cases before applications can reach us.

"JOHN BULL" COUPON FOR MUSICIANS.

To the Manager, Cowling Institute,
Museum Station Buildings,
High Holborn, London, W.C.

I should like to receive a copy of your photographically illustrated book (with letters from musicians) describing the "Cowling" System of gaining a perfect technical mastery of the piano, violin or 'cello without years of practice, and particulars of half fees offer.

Please send above to the following address, gratis and post free.

Name .....

Address.....

.....

I play the .....

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Inquiry.

WHITELEY'S.—W. H. R. (Deal).—The price should have been given as ⅞ (seven-eighths, equivalent to 17s. 6d. middle). The shares are still quoted at that level.

DEPOSIT RATE.—W. I. C. K.—The rule is as mentioned, but at the present time, owing to exceptional circumstances, such as the very large volume of money on depeosit, the banks are still paying only 3½ per cent. interest.

ANGLO-NEWFOUNDLAND DEVELOPMENT.—R. K. (Londonderry).—The London offices of this Company are at Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, E.C., and the head office at Grand Falls, Newfoundland. The Company appears to be chiefly interested in lumber, mining, and railway concessions, and not in the fisheries of Newfoundland. The *Daily Mail* controls the bulk of the capital.

PALL MALL SYNDICATE.—H. S. L. (Birmingham).—We cannot trace this concern through the usual sources, and advise you to obtain bankers' or other references.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE HOUSE PURCHASE.—NATIONAL ALLIANCE.—For reasons often explained, we are not enamoured of this kind of investment. Why not make inquiries in Glasgow itself with regard to the standing of the concern? It is a hard thing to advise you to lose the £48 already paid, unless you can quite satisfy yourself that the payment of further subscriptions would not be throwing more good money after bad.

BRITISH MOSS LITTER.—BARLOCK TYPEWRITER.—SPECULATE.—(1) We do not advise a further purchase of British Moss Litter shares; they would not give such a high yield if they were not even more than usually speculative. (2) Yes, a sound Industrial, whose shares should appreciate in value.

CITY OF BAHIA BONDS.—CIVIS.—A second or third-rate investment, the value of which must depend generally upon the trend of the Foreign market. We do not suppose that the price will go much lower, although we do not look for any substantial improvement, at present at any rate.

BENSKIN'S BREWERY.—G. P. (Balham).—You do not mention which of the share-issues you mean. The dividend on the First Preference has been in arrear since September, 1908, but a resumption of dividends has just been made with a distribution of 2½ per cent. Nothing has been paid on the "B" Preference since March, 1907; and, obviously, the Ordinary shares have been without a dividend for a still longer period. In view of the return of better times for the brewing industry generally, it would now be advisable to hold.

CUNLIFFE RUSSELL AND CO. (Paris).—BONDS.—We suggest that you should forward the Bonds to Messrs. Cunliffe Russell and Co. for verification. Provided you send them by registered post they will be perfectly safe. The firm are quite trustworthy.

PROPERTY INSURANCE CO.—W. P. (Preston).—The Company has gone into liquidation.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—S. G. (Regent Street, W.).—The absurdly inadequate Surrender Value allowed in respect of "Bond Certificates," when discontinued, is cause for real dissatisfaction, and your experience is on a par with that of thousands of others. Unfortunately, you have no legal redress, notwithstanding the statement which you say was made to you at the time you joined that the "subscriptions could be withdrawn." After discharging the loan the "Bond Certificate" will be released, and you must then be satisfied to receive such sum as the Association will give for the surrender of the Bond.——HACKNEY.—Unless the Association can find you a purchaser for your "Ballot Certificate," you must either keep it going or accept their offer of £22 for the £60 paid in. This concern may well boast of the strength of its financial position, having regard to the heavy sacrifice it compels the holders of certificates who wish to surrender to make, as in your case.

ASSURANCE.—A. W. S. (Wolstanton).—If you had knowledge that the agent had left the service of the Company, and notwithstanding this circumstance, you paid the premiums to him, which were not remitted to the office, the management could repudiate liability. It is not, of course, right that you should be deprived of the benefit of the assurance, which matures two years hence, and the Company should place no barrier in the way of your reviving the policy. Put the facts clearly before them.

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE CO.—H. K. (St. Leonards).—Send us the policies and any correspondence you have relating to your dispute in connection with the accident claim.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—OLD READER.—The letter you have addressed to us is not signed. Please send your name and address, when your inquiry will receive attention.——J. B. (North Shields).—The Company's claim appears to be for "lapsed debit," and is apparently based on clause 9 of the agreement, which stipulates that a collector must "make good" the amount of decrease in the premium debit. We have frequently expressed our disapproval of the "credit and debit system" associated with Industrial assurance, and we should be inclined to contest the legality of a claim of this sort. You had better request a detailed statement showing how the sum is made up, and then submit the account, together with the collectorship agreement, to your solicitor for his opinion.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—P. J. McL. (Northants).—We see no objection to your taking out an Endowment policy with them.

BRITISH GENERAL INSURANCE CO.—R. J. M. (Port Talbot).—Established in 1904 on non-tariff lines, the progress made may be regarded as satisfactory. The subscribed capital is £100,000, the sum of 5s. per share being paid up, or £25,000 in all. The premium income at the close of 1912 was £76,760, and investments £52,915. The risk you mention is somewhat large for a young enterprise.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE CO.—E. G. G. (Stamford Hill).—Your complaint is that, having effected a Personal Accident policy to hold good anywhere, and the agent having assured you that in the event of accident occurring to you on the high seas, or in foreign parts, no extra payment would be required, and that the policy held good anywhere, you have since ascertained that the Company never give consent to clients to go out of Europe unless an extra premium is paid. It is clear from the correspondence that this condition was not made known to you, and that the letter you enclose from the branch office makes no reference to any "extra" being chargeable, but, on the contrary, recites: "The benefits granted by our policy are extended whilst you are out of Europe, provided we are duly notified of your intentions and receive the name of the country or countries which you propose visiting, and you have our consent in writing." In all the circumstances we are of opinion that the Company should cancel the policy and return the premium you have paid.

BRITISH LEGAL AND UNITED PROVIDENCE ASSURANCE.—W. S. (Peterhead).—Instruct a solicitor to deal with your case. We think you acted correctly in refusing the £10 which you say was offered you by the Superintendent in settlement of your claim.

ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL.—H. N. (South Hackney).—We note the further information respecting the sale of your book, and that the Superintendent has informed you that he is prepared to settle the matter. To a large extent you are in his hands, and, having regard to the intricacies involved in a transaction of this kind, if you are satisfied that the figure mentioned is fair and reasonable, we should advise you to accept and close the transaction.

NATIONAL BENEFIT LIFE AND PROPERTY ASSURANCE CO.—J. W. (Bradford).—The Company is making satisfactory progress and is fairly strong financially. We do not, however, like their House Property Certificates, and you would find it more advantageous to take out a whole Life or Endowment Assurance Policy.

BUILDING SOCIETY.—UNCLE.—We do not recommend the Society for House Property purchase. The Certificate subscriptions and interest on the loan make the transaction a dear one. There is an excellent Society in your City, from whom you could obtain better terms. If you decide not to purchase you would find the "John Bull" Bank 5 per Cent. Transferable Deposit Notes a good investment. They are payable upon presentation at the Bank three months from date of issue, or at any time thereafter.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.—J. P. (Hammersmith).—Having joined in 1877, it appears to us that you are entitled to the weekly allowance of 4s. per week so long as you are totally incapable of earning your own livelihood. We should question the authority of the Society to reduce or discontinue the allowance now that it is an Approved Society.

DRAYCOTT AND DISTRICT TAYLOR-MILLS SOCIETY (Taylor-Mills).—We have already expressed our views of this class of society. All that you can do in the circumstances you relate is for you and your co-members to consult a local solicitor.

BRITISH WIDOWS' ASSURANCE CO.—A. R. E. (Nottingham).—Yours is a case which would justify the Directors extending to you generous consideration. Communicate the position to the head office direct, or through the local Superintendent.

MUTUAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT AND ACCIDENT CO.—W. G. H. (London, S.W.).—We do not recommend it.

ROYAL LONDON.—J. T. (London, N.).—Pay no attention to the statement that you are liable for your father's debts in the event of his death—a son is entitled to assure the life of his parent to cover funeral expenses.

FINE ART AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO.—RESPONSIBILITY.—The office bears a good name for fair treatment of its policyholders.

UNITED FRIENDLY INSURANCE SOCIETY.—A. A. R. (Knapphill).—You should apply for a return of the sums contributed.

RELIANCE FIRE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE CORPORATION.—H. W. (Hanley).—Other correspondents have written us complaining of the Company's decision to discontinue miners' risk. They are, however, empowered to adopt this course under the conditions of the policy.

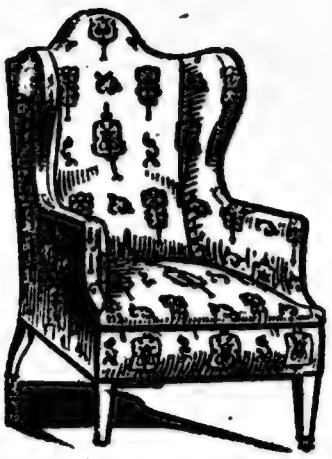
INSURANCE COMPANIES.—S. B. (Glasgow).—The two Companies you mention are quite safe.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN INSURANCE SOCIETY.—J. C. (Hanley).—Your contention is that you are entitled to the sum of £2 in consequence of rain falling between the dates recited in the policy. You find it difficult, however, to prove your claim, as you have no means of obtaining official information from the Meteorological Office unless you pay for it, and this requires the payment of the usual charge of 2s. 6d. per hour, with a minimum charge of 5s. It is surely the duty of the Society to give the particulars, which you say they have done for five of the seven days. You have written for the complete record, which they say has been forwarded to you, but we find no evidence of this. Write them again and let us know how you get on.

INSURANCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

Owing to the enormous number of enquiries we receive on Insurance matters, our readers will appreciate the difficulty which confronts us in giving prompt replies. Indeed, the congestion has become so great that we have decided to depart from the rule we have hitherto observed of replying only through this column, and to answer by post. Correspondents, therefore, who fail to find replies to their enquiries on this page may expect to hear from us by letter with as little delay as possible.

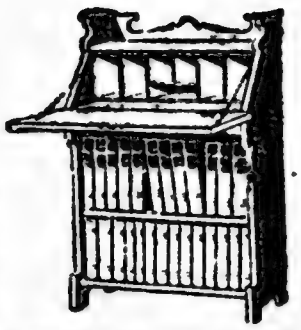
£2,000 for First Round Forecasts. £1,000 must be Won.



A luxurious upholstered wing-chair, covered with art tapestry.
£1 8s. 6d.

New Tea-room, smoking Lounge and Writing Room now open for the convenience of our Customers. **Free.**

If you are unable to call during business hours, kindly make an appointment for any time suited to yourself. We will retain a qualified salesman to attend to your wishes.



Fumed Oak Bureau, 2 ft. 2 in. wide, 3 ft. 6 in. high, 9 in. deep.
£1 1s. 6d.

"One ounce of Fact—"

is worth a pound of Theory,—and I can assure you, as a business man speaking from personal experience, that at the "Midland" you will get the very best value of the whole Furnishing Trade.

It's just a simple matter of logic. The "Midland" are the actual manufacturers of most of their own stock—consequently they can afford to save you the intermediate profits usually charged. That, alone, is one reason why their prices are far below those of other firms.

Then, again, their huge trade—their commanding position in the markets of the world—enables them to charge the very lowest price compatible with real sterling value. It stands to reason, then, that

Money buys more at the "Midland"

What is more—they charge nothing for credit—no deposit, no interest—no extras whatsoever beyond the plainly marked cash prices. **Everything purchased on the Ideal Terms is insured against fire; and, should the purchaser die, all the furniture becomes the absolute property of the wife without further payment.**

Write for the "Midland" book of Furniture.

This new and very handsome volume—the finest and most comprehensive guide to Furnishing ever published—contains over 1,000 photographs actually taken in our Furniture Salons. The book will be sent **free** on receipt of a postcard with your address.

Write for it to-day.

Ideal Terms (Town or Country).

Worth.		Per Month.		
£10	...	£0	6	0
£20	...	0	11	0
£30	...	0	17	0
£40	...	1	5	0

Worth		Per Month.		
£50	...	£1	8	0
£100	...	2	5	0
£200	...	4	10	0

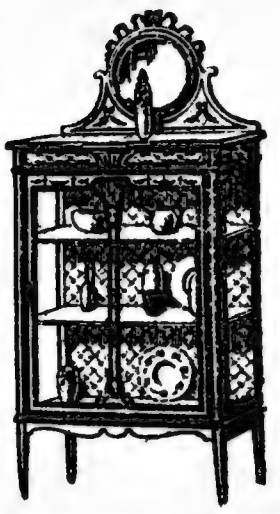
Larger amounts pro rata.

10% additional discount for Cash.

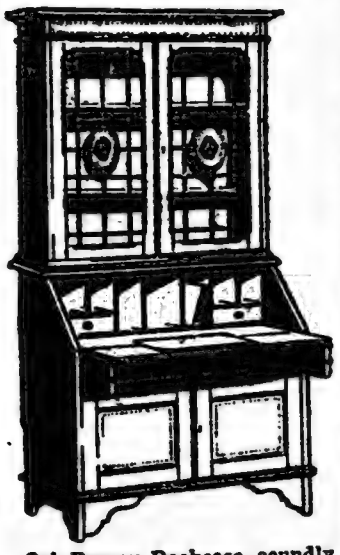
Customers' Fares Paid

to London on all orders of £20 and over. Country orders packed and delivered **Free.**

Country Orders receive the prompt attention of a special Manager.

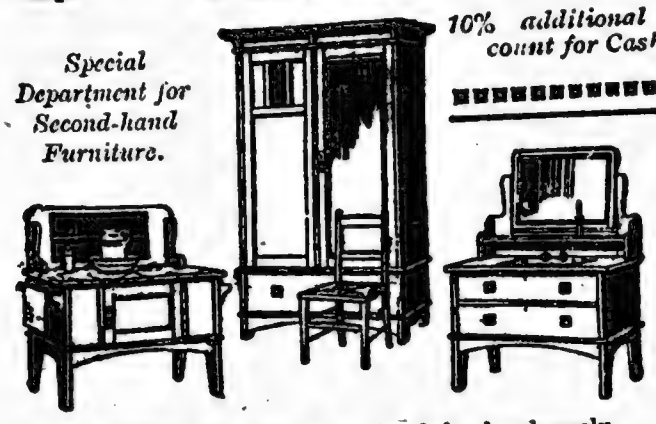


Dainty Mahogany Cabinet, hand decorated and lined with silk damask, 6 ft. high, 2 ft. 6 in. wide.
£4 4s. 0d.

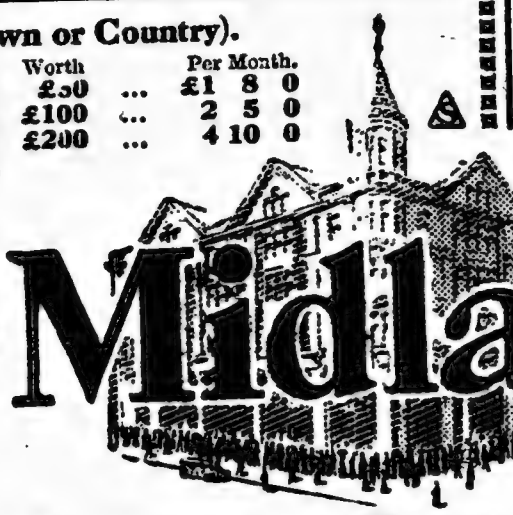


Oak Bureau Bookcase, soundly constructed, with leaded light glass doors and fitted with fall front. 3 ft. wide, 7 ft. high, 16 in. deep. £4 15s. 0d.

Special Department for Second-hand Furniture.



Well-made Bedroom Suite in Oak, handsomely designed. A typical example of "Midland" value. With 2 rush-seated chairs. £6 16s. 6d.



Midland

Furnishing Company, Ltd.,

London's Leading Furnishers,

15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Seven doors from Holborn and Holborn Tube Station, 1 minute from British Museum Tube Station.
Hours—9 till 8. Saturdays—9 till 1.
Managing Director, **George Michael,** *has been connected with the business 40 years.*

"BULLETS"—THE XMAS COMPETITION!

Our Record Prize List Still Maintained

1ST PRIZE! **£500** **1ST PRIZE!**

2nd Prize	3rd Prize	20 Prizes of	50 Prizes of
£50	£25	£2-10-0	£1 EACH.

250 PRIZES	4,000 OTHER PRIZES	1,000 PRIZES
OF 5/- EACH.	VALUE £900	OF 2/6 EACH.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

THE FESTIVE SEASON
PLUM PUDDING
THE PRESENT TIME
CHARMING GIRLS
BOXING CHAMPION
SHOULD HUSBANDS TELL
CHANGING COLOUR
LAND DEAL
THE MIDDLE CLASSES
HASHED MUTTON
THE LATEST
IN QUESTIONABLE TASTE
SPOILT
RICH LIVING
THE CONSULTING ROOM
WELL OILED
AT CHRISTMAS
A FRESH START
MY LANDLORD
A PAYING GAME
LAST INSTALMENT
MOVING
KINDLY ACT
EYED WITH SUSPICION
LEADS TO TROUBLE
UNEARNED INCREMENT
WITHOUT A WORD
OVERCROWDED
HALF PRICE
DYING OUT
TERRIBLE BLUNDER
OFTEN SOLD
MONEY SCARCE
PATCHED UP
CLOSE FRIENDS
MET HIS MATCH
FAMILY JARS
KEEP NOISE QUIET
PROMISING TIME
COMPARING NOTES

5,323 PRIZES THIS WEEK

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example, "LEADS TO TROUBLE," and take the letters "E" and "A" using the word "GREEN" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet "EATING GREEN APPLES." From the example "DYING OUT," the Bullet "GRACEFUL DANCING" can be formed. Again, if you choose the example "EYED WITH SUSPICION," using the letter "H" as initial for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet "HUBBY ARRIVES HATLESS."

Competitors may send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence. But if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent

Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition, are in no way debarred from winning again.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Competitors can see The "Bullets" Judges at work at any time.

Closing date, Wednesday, December 31st.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

65, P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 987.

Signed _____

Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated January 3 d.

Closing date, Wednesday, December 31st.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(65) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 987.

Signed _____

Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 65." "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

The Result of this Competition will appear in our issue dated January 17th.

For Rules, etc., see opposite page.

RESULT OF 62ND BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £500:—

Mr. CHARLES SARA,
57, Tunstall Street, Liverpool.

Example.—IN CHANCERY.
Bullet.—HUNDREDS REMAIN CENTURIES.

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:—

Mrs. ALICE M. POWELL,
Brentbrook, Brent Street, Hendon, London, N.W.

Example.—PLUCKING PIGEONS.
Bullet.—EXTRACTION BY "GAS."

THIRD PRIZE OF £25:—

Mr. J. SPENCER,
20, St Stephen's Road, East Ham, London, E.

Example.—INCREASES THE TAKINGS.
Bullet.—SHAM JEWELLER'S ILLUMINATION.

20 Prizewinners of £2 10s each.

Mr. R. H. BRADFIELD, 68, Summergangs Road, Hull: MARRIED IN HASTE—HER "FIGURE" ENTRANCING.
Mr. D. SUMMERS, 184, St. Augustine Road, Southsea: ASKING FOR MONEY—FAMILIARITY BREEDS ATTEMPT.
Mr. SYDNEY P. MOUNTER, 1, Melbourne Avenue, West Ealing, W.: TINY TOTS—OFTEN "SHY" THINGS.
Mr. T. DEVLIN, 10, Egleston Street, Belfast: SICK BENEFIT—FATHER CAN'T FLOG.
Mr. D. BATEY, 124, Meadow Terrace, New Herrington, Co. Durham: EVERYBODY WANTS—ARMY "MESSES" RIGHTED.
Mr. G. T. WILLEY, Silvermere, Woodside Avenue, North Finchley, N.: A GAY DOG—ARTFUL "PUSS" ACCOMPANIES.
Mr. J. W. KEOGH, 103, Quentin Road, Lee, S.E.: EVERYBODY WANTS—"BANK" FIVE DOUBLE-O.
Mr. W. R. COOPER, 16, Gloucester Road, Bootle, Liverpool. EVERYBODY WANTS—NAME: NEWSAGENT'S WINDOW.
Mr. GEO. F. JENKINS, 5, Venner Road, Sydenham, S.E.: BOTTOM RUNG—THE "DENSEST" THRONG.
Mr. DAVID ROSS, 3, King Street, Tain, Ross shire: OVERDUE—DIRECTORS' SALARIES RARELY.
Mrs. A. MACPHERSON, 1, Burnage Lane, Garden Village, Levenshulme, Manchester. TINY TOTS—SAUNCH "PARTY" SUPPORTERS.
Mrs. MAY W. DEDMAN, 50, Albemarle Gdns., New Malden: HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS—GOVERNMENT CLERKS AWAKEN.
Mrs. L. TURNEY, 15, Horace St., Wilcox Rd., S. Lambeth, S.W.: TINY TOTS—NUMBER PREVENTS SLUMBER.
Mrs. M. SLADE, 36, Manor Av., Fulwood, Preston, Lancs.: ASKING FOR MONEY—"SOBS" TOUCH "FOBS."
Mr. F. J. LEWIS, Signalman, G.W.R. Station, Gloucester: BOTTOM RUNG:—MISER'S FIRE GENERALLY.
Mr. CHAS. GREENOUGH, White Barn, Broadstone, Dorset: MARRIED IN HASTE:—EXPERIENCE'S "CURTAIN RAISER."
Mrs. J. LLOYD, Vronholme, Ventnor Gardens, Whitley Bay, Northumberland: TALKING MACHINES:—NOSES DURING SERVICE.
Mr. ISABEL TAIT, Whitethorns, 7, Beachfield Road, Sandown, I. of W.: BOTTOM RUNG:—MOST "WEIGHT" THERE.
Mr. G. HEDGES, The "Anchor and Hope," Foundry Lane, Southampton: BUTTONS:—THE "NUTS" SPECIALITY.
Mr. THOS. NORMAN, 49, Mount Road, New Malden: CHRISTMAS FARE:—COMIC CUTS.

50 PRIZEWINNERS OF 10s.

Aggis, Mrs. M., High-st., Berkeley, Glos.
Ajling, S., c.o. 18, South-st., Guildford.
Baillie, G. B., 25, Engineer-rd., Woolwich, S.E.
Ballantyne, W., 6, King Edward-st., Amble, Northd.
Bennett, C., c.o. 6, Cecil-ter., Caerleon, Newport, Mon.
Bolton, A., 34, Westminster-rd., Coventry.
Clough, G. W., Bleak House, Horsforth, nr. Leeds.
Cook, C. H. D., H.M.S. Brisk, 2nd Flotilla, Portland.
Couchman, Sgt.-Maj., 4, Fenbury-st., Barbourne, Worcs.
Daly, Miss C., 38, High-st., Omagh, Ireland.
Davies, H. H., St. Ives, Frodsham, Ches.
Davies, R. H., 32, Beverley-rd., Liverpool.
Dawson, G. A., 15, Lavers-rd., Stoke Newington, N.
Denning'n, E. M., 6, Rutland-st., York-st., Norwich.
Dewil, Miss L., 3, Esk-ter., Whitby, Yorks
Dudley, S., 14, Richmond-ter., Clapham-rd., S.W.
Edwards, P. W., The Beeches, Castle Gresley, Burton-on-Trent.
Farquhar, W., 5, Stafford-rd., Tonbridge, Kent
Forrester, W., 97, Grove-st., Glasgow, Scotland.
Goodman, R. G., 19, College-st., Leicester.
Hanna, J. E., 38, Belgrave-sq., Rathmines, Dublin.
Henderson, J., 22, Hill-st., Springburn, Glasgow.
Heybourne, Mrs., Ford House, Wargrave-rd., Henley-on-Thames.
Hickton, H., 70, Springfield-st., Ladywood, Birmingham.
Hodges, H. S., 105, Caerleon-rd Newport, Mon.
Kemp, H. S., 133, Gloucester-rd, Regents Park, N.W.
Kettle, T., 8 West-st., Scarborough.
Lane, O., 30, Broxash-rd., Clapham Common, S.W.
McAinsh, A., 7, Tankerville-rd., Streatham, S.W.
McKenzie, A., 56, Dean-park, Newtongrange, Midlothian.
McQueen, F., 277, Bilsland-drive, Maryhill, Glasgow.
Miller, A., 109, Florence-rd., Stroud Green, N.
Moore, J. A., 16, Grasmeadyke-av., East Sheen, S.W.
Oliver, A. D., 11 James-st Sheerness-on-Sea.
Orchard, W. H., 21a, Roschill-ter., Swansea.
Parr, Miss J., "The Druids Arms Middlegate-st., Great Yarmouth.
Revas, F., Thorntoun, Crosshouse, Kilmarnock.
Roberts, Miss I., 68, Rodney-st., Liverpool.
Rutter, A. G., 51, All Saints-rd., Ipswich.
Shaw, J., 3, Lime-grove, New Malden, Surrey.
Sinnock G. 24 Robertson-rd., Poynton Park, Sussex.
Smith, W. R., 38, Hall-lane, Hindley, Lancs.
Spreckley, A. W., Market Hall, Hull
Strange W. R., 62, Chepstow-rd., Newport, Mon.
Street, E., 40, Richmond-rd., Barnsbury, N.
Tait, Mrs. M. E., Orchardville, Hamilton N.B.
Vernon, L., c.o. "Hen and Chickens," Castle-st., Dudley.
Warren, H., 41, St Paul's-sq., Birmingham
Wilkie, D. O., Leicester House, 1, Castle-green, Kenilworth Warwick
Woodman, W. H., 1, Royal Parade, Burnham, Somerset

JOHN BULL
LIMITED
No 2390
THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND BANK
COVENT GARDEN BRANCH
This Bank will pay to the Bearer on Demand
the sum of One thousand Pounds
JOHN BULL LTD No 2390
£1000 0 0

Reduced facsimile of the

£1,000 "BULLETS" CHEQUE

paid to last week's First Prize Winner

The original of the above cheque will be on view at W. H. Smith and Sons' Bookstall, No. 14 Platform, Victoria Station, Manchester, for one week, commencing Tuesday, December 23rd, and thence at W. H. Smith and Sons' Bookstall, Central Station, Manchester.

Selection from 1,000. 2s. 6d. Prize Winners

Cader, R., 17, Solway-rd., East Dulwich.
Cain, J. H., 27, Shenstone-rd., Edgbaston.
Cameron, J., 91, Alexandra-rd., Hornsey.
Campbell, G. E., 27, Pennethorne-rd., Peckham, S.E.
Cannon, C. W., 171, Lavender-rd., Battersea, S.W.
Cannon, Miss P., 6, Cecil-ter., Caerleon, Newport, Mon.
Canova, P. H., 10, Church-rd., Lowestoft.
Carey, A. F., 18, Heath-gdns., Twickenham.
Carlton, Miss E., 36, Clumber-st., Hull.
Carpenter, S., 131, Portman-mans., W.
Carrie, W. T., 59, Sibley-grove, Manor Park, E.
Carrington, J., 227, City-rd., St. Helens.
Carter, Pte. H., H.M.S. Grafton, Queenstown.
Carter, J. F., Ryther Rectory, York.
Carter, R., 56, Danby-st., Peckham, S.E.
Cashel, A., 7, St. James Park, Croydon.
Cassidy, C., 9, Pall Mall, Manchester.
Caswell, Mrs. L. I., Great Oakley, Kettering.
Catley, L. H., New-rd., Buxted, Sussex.
Caws, Mrs. E. A., Aldermoor, Bembridge, I.W.
Chaser, H. R., 3, Earl-st., Grimsby.
Chambers, Mrs. E., 48, Military-rd., North Shields.
Champion, R. J., 17, Chesterfield-rd., Bristol.
Chaplin, W., 17, New St. Vincent-sq., Westminster, S.W.
Chapman, E., St. Osyth, St. George Park-av., Westcliff-on-Sea.
Chapman, I., 53, Dawlish-rd., East End Park, Leeds.
Chapman, F. H., 21, Gelling-st., Mansfield, Notts.
Charlton, A., 110, East Parade, Keighley.
Cheesman, S. F., Llantwitt, York-rd., Broadstone.
Chenkall, H., 12, Ridley-st., Cramlington.
Cheshire, H. A., 14, Tavistock-cres., Westbourne Park, W.
Cheshire, Mr., Rifles' Canteen, Colchester.
Chester, Miss K., Glen Villa, Prior Park-rd., Bath.
Cheyne, Mrs A. F., Sunnyside, Clarence-rd., Bickley.
Clague, G., Mona Cottage, Queens Prom., Douglas, I.O.M.
Clark, G. H., 7, St. Kilda's-rd., Oldfield Park, Bath
Clark, W., Dulfryn Villa, Ponthir, Newport, Mon.
Clark, M., 6, Denmark-ter., St. Mark's, Cheltenham.
Clark, J., 3, Ingatestone-rd., Wanstead Park.
Clarke, Mrs. E., Inkerman-rd., Selston, Notts.
Clarke, Miss F. M., 53, Kennington-av., Bishopston, Bristol
Clifton, T., 19, Beauvale-rd., Nottingham.
Coates, Mrs. M. A., 99, Crabble-hill, Dover.
Coate, W. A., "King's Arms," Otterton, nr. Budleigh Salterton.
Colbon, C. B., 19, West-st., Huntingdon.
Cole, H., Bank House, Milford Haven.
Cole, T., 79, Goodrich-cres., Newport, Mon.
Cole, T., 1, Broughton-rd., Pendleton.
Collier, I. E. (Sorter), E.C. Section, G.P.O., London.
Colwell, M. L., 76, Beckwith-st., Birkenhead.
Combes, C., Westmount, Clevedon.
Connell, J. M., 47, Parnie-st., Glasgow.
Connor, F. J., 16, Frithville-gdns., Shepherd's Bush, W.
Cook, W. F., 150, High-st., Plumstead.

Owing to lack of space we are unable to publish a list of the 250 Prize-winners of Turkeys on this page. Complete lists can be had on application at these offices accompanied by a 1d. stamp. A list is also published in this week's "Competitors' Journal."

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Editor, and his special staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. In deciding prizes, originality and aptness will be taken into account. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on page 986 and only two attempts may be written on each coupon
3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed [illegible]. Competitors must write their names and addresses, and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.
4. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.
5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, December 31st.
6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.
7. The Editor's decision on any matter in dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry

No element of chance enters into the adjudication of our "Bullets" Competition. Every coupon is judged by TWO DIFFERENT Members of our special staff of Adjudicators, who have been elected by reason of their high qualification for this work. This staff put aside all coupons which they consider sufficiently meritorious to qualify for a prize. So that, before any coupon is rejected, TWO DIFFERENT Judges have to decide that it is not of sufficient merit to receive a prize. Then, all coupons selected are considered by the Competition Editor in consultation with the Judges. In this manner the coupons are reduced in number to correspond with the total number of prizes to be awarded. The Competition Editor, again in consultation with the Judges, next selects all the lines of outstanding merit. These are placed before the Editor, who, after consultation, decides finally the order of merit. This system of judging keeps a large staff of Adjudicators continually occupied the whole of the week—so thoroughly is the work done. We would point out that, by this system of judging, no award is decided arbitrarily by one mind. It is only after a line has been considered sufficiently meritorious by a BODY OF JUDGES IN CONSULTATION, all of whom are specially qualified for the work, that it can receive a cash or any other prize. As regards the principal prizes, the coupons of outstanding merit are considered many times by the Editor, and also by the Competition Editor and the adjudication staff in consultation, before the final awards are made. In a sentence, ALL coupons are read and considered, and re-read and re-considered by a specially selected staff of highly-qualified Adjudicators, under the general supervision of an experienced Competition Expert—and in consultation with the Editor. That is why "Bullets" constitute a genuine skill contest, free from any and every element of arbitrary decision or of chance selection

Complete List of all cash and other Prize-winners in the above Competition can be seen at the "John Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

Prophetic.

In consequence of the Christmas holidays we are compelled to go to press some days earlier than usual. So early, in fact, that the full programme and entries for the Kempton Park Bank Holiday meeting are not yet available. On Boxing Day,

BALLYKISTEEN,

should win the Richmond Maiden Hurdle, and CORTIGAN'S PRIDE the Hampton Steeplechase. On Saturday, SILVER MOUNTAIN, who has previously run well on this course, looks the likely winner of the Mortlake Three-Year-Old Hurdle.

GLEN HESTON*

for the Shepperton Steeplechase represents the best thing at the meeting, whilst MASTER-AT-ARMS, should take the Sunbury Steeplechase.

The Editor may run one or two horses at the Kempton Park meeting, in which case they should be followed. We note that Silver Cherry has been scratched for all engagements, the mare having been very seriously injured in her recent accident at Kempton. It is hoped, however, to patch her up and to get a race out of her before the close of the jumping season.

FOOTBALL NOTICE.

In consequence of our having to go to press with this issue (owing to the Christmas holidays) before the weekly papers are published, we are unable to give our usual Table of Selections. Our own forecasts, in the special circumstances, must be taken with some reserve.

MATCHES TO BE PLAYED SATURDAY, DEC. 27th.

The names of probable winners are printed in *Italics*. Where a draw is predicted both teams are printed in ordinary type.

LEAGUE I.

Aston Villa v. Bradford C.	Newcastle *v. Sunderland.*
Burnley v. W. Bromwich A.	Oldham *v.* Bolton W.
Liverpool *v. Blackburn R.*	Preston *v.* Everton.
Manchester U. v. Sheffield W.	*Sheffield U. v.* Derby C.
Middlesbro' v. Manchester C.	*Tottenham H. v.* Chelsea.

LEAGUE II.

Barnsley v. Lincoln C.	*Hull v.* Blackpool.
Bradford v. Birmingham.	*Leicester F. v.* Woolwich A.
Bury v. Huddersfield.	*Notts. C. v.* Grimsby.
Fulham *v.* Clapton O.	*Stockport C. v.* Bristol C.
Glossop *v. Leeds C.*	*Wolverhampton W. v.* Notts F

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

Brighton v. Coventry.	*Northampton v.* Norwich C.
Bristol R. *v.* Merthyr Town.	*Portsmouth v.* Crystal P.
Cardiff *v. Plymouth.*	*Queen's Pk. R. v.* Gillingham
Exeter v. Southampton.	*Southend v.* Watford.
Millwall v. Reading.	*Swindon v.* West Ham U.

A SWEEPSTAKE DRAW.

HOW THE PRIZES ARE DECIDED.

As the date approaches for the closing of Messrs. Smallman and Terry's great JOHN BULL Football Cup "Sweep," we are bombarded with letters as to the method which will be adopted in connection with the draw, and as our Editor has accepted the responsibility for the whole of the arrangements it may be as well if we here explain the method of procedure which, at his suggestion, it has been decided to adopt. There will be two cylinders, or tombolas—one constructed upon a large scale and resembling the boiler of a railway locomotive—revolving on an axis and fitted internally with a series of "teeth." Into this will be placed the original counterfoils sent in by holders of tickets. Secondly, there will be a small cylinder in which will be placed discs bearing the names of the 64 clubs left in the Football Cup Competition proper. The two cylinders will then be placed at opposite ends of a large room and in the presence of a Committee, comprising representative members of the winners in previous sweepstakes run by Messrs. Smallman and Terry, sporting journalists and others, the following method of procedure will be observed. First, the large cylinder will be set in motion and then those present will be invited each in turn, the moment the cylinder is brought to a standstill, to open the small trapdoor provided for the purpose and withdraw one of the counterfoils. Then, before any name or number is mentioned, a similar method will be adopted with the smaller cylinder, a disc bearing the name of one of the 64 clubs being withdrawn. The two documents will then be attached to each other, whereupon the number of the ticket, together with the name of its holder, will be called out and entered on a sheet, together with the name of the club on the attached disc. This process will be repeated sixty-four times, until the whole of the Clubs have been drawn. There will then be placed in the smaller cylinder discs corresponding to the whole of the Consolation Prizes, and the process previously described will be continued until the whole of such prizes have been allotted. Anybody present will have the right to draw either a counterfoil or a prize disc, but neither Mr. Smallman nor Mr. Terry will take any part in the draw. It will be seen that in this way there can be no possibility of collusion or fraud of any kind; whilst inasmuch as the full amount of the prize money is guaranteed it will also be understood that Messrs. Smallman and Terry can have no interest of any sort in withholding any counterfoil from the draw. As soon as the lists have been completed by the clerks they will be read out and checked with the counterfoils and discs, and then those present will be asked to certify to the regularity and correctness of the draw. Thereupon the full result will be despatched by a special messenger to London for publication in JOHN BULL for the week ending January 10th, published in London on Wednesday, January 7th, and in the provinces on January 8th. The Consolation Prizes will be at once despatched to the various winners, whilst those relating to the 64 clubs will be remitted from time to time as the various ties are played, until the Final is reached in April, when the lucky drawer of the winning team will receive a cheque for £7,000 and of the runner-up for £2,000.

We trust this explanation will meet the various points which have been raised and will satisfy our readers that the interests of subscribers will be protected in every possible way. For any further information we must refer them to Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva, Switzerland.

SPORTING REPLIES.

The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith.

"JOHN BULL" FOOTBALL CUP SWEEP.—G. M. L. (Honiton).—We have returned your postal order, as under no circumstances can we act as agents for the issue of tickets or transmission of money. You must communicate with Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva.——R. C. (Isle of Man).—A British postal order will do. ——R. S. B. (Eastbourne).—We note the contents of your letter to Messrs. Smallman and Terry, and have no doubt that the matter will be arranged to your friend's satisfaction.——W. W. (Cardiff).—We suggest you should register your letter, but you must not forget that the last day for posting is December 29. Don't leave it until the last minute.——W. L. (Sunderland).—We presume you filled in your own name in the counterfoil and have satisfied yourself that it has been forwarded to Geneva with remittance. Should you draw a prize, you will, of course, have to produce the ticket you hold in support of your claim.——H. R. (Salford).—Of course the Sweep is perfectly genuine, Messrs. Smallman and Terry being a very substantial firm.——W. M. (Ashby-de-la-Zouch).—The result of the Draw will appear in our issue of January 10.——ANXIOUS.—See reply to H. R. (Salford)

ALFRED H. MAURICE (Birsfelden).—P. B. (Luton).—Quite genuine.

A. BERESFORD (Shaftesbury Avenue).—W. D. (Maidstone).—Your experience only confirms the wisdom of our advice to our readers to have nothing to do with this man, who must not be confused with Mr. J. Beresford, the well-known turf accountant, of Birmingham. The letter you have received from the man dunning you for 2s., and threatening that if he does not hear from you he will "start sending you postcards you may not like to receive," is a communication which we think no reputable bookmaker would send to a client in any circumstances.

COLLIN'S SYNDICATE.—SYSTEM.—We do not recommend.

THE TOTALISATOR (Lucerne).—GREAT PANAMA CANAL.—We believe the firm are doing business "over the sticks."

CALCUTTA DERBY SWEEP.—RECKLESS.—Tickets are now only issued to members of the Calcutta Turf Club.

PATRICK O'BRIEN (Lucerne).—QUERIST.—We understand that the books of tickets for the Grand National Sweepstake will be distributed early in the New Year, but for further information we must refer you to Mr. Patrick O'Brien, of Lucerne, Switzerland.

"SPORTING PROFIT" (Birsfelden).—CYMRO.—We are not surprised at the treatment you have received, and can only repeat our warning against these people.

STANLEY WEBB (Geneva).—F. W. M. (Addlestone).—We note your complaint that you sent some winning bets to this man in respect of matches played on December 6, and although you have written to him you can neither receive the money nor a reply of any kind.

£700 TO BE SHOT FOR £700.

GRAND CUP TIE CONTEST. PRIZE MONEY DOUBLED. BUT NO INCREASE OF MATCHES.

All "JOHN BULL"-ITES are invited to join the "'TERRY'-TORIAL" Rank in order to participate in a Grand Contest to be promoted on the FIRST ROUND OF THE CUP Jan. 10th.

£700 MUST BE WON £700.

Those interested should make early application to address below for particulars of this BIG SHOOTING COMPETITION.

Premier Prizes this season have been awarded as follows:—

Sept. 1st Contest (no tens predicted) 14 nines gained **£17 17s. 1d.**

„ 6th „ (no tens predicted) 38 nines gained **£6 11s. 6d.**

The above results—no tens for two successive contests—constitute a record for Continental Competitions.

Sept.	13th	Contest	2	tens	gained	£125	0s. 0d.
„	20th	„	5	„	„	£50	0s. 0d.
„	27th	„	117	„	„	£2	2s. 8d.
Oct.	4th	„	53	„	„	£4	14s. 4d.
„	11th	„	8	„	„	£31	5s. 0d.
„	18th	„	41	„	„	£6	1s. 11d.
„	25th	„	2	„	„	£125	0s. 0d.

H. T. TERRY,

"Football World," Geneva, Switzerland

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and PUBLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING ISSUE.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production **within seven days of publication** (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following correct numbers have been received:—

Mr. N. BANDEY, 108, Dudley St., Bedford. November 22nd. No. 426,906.

Mr. WM. R. BISHOP, 63, Spencer Rd., Heeley, Sheffield. November 22nd. No. 238,976.

Mr. GEO. SCOTT, 175, Olive Terrace, Darwen. November 29th. No. 577,683.

Mr. H. E. MARKILLIE, "Wimbledon," Perry St., Campsie, New South Wales, Australia. June 14th. No. 233,779.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of December 20th:—

004064	170228	356453	569976	763064
018696	175157	372184	574540	817243
040974	188575	376632	598782	823051
054303	206696	410070	614756	846074
069603	219869	434803	654331	913691
076623	233156	463063	666645	923416
086501	252094	484143	681170	986723
107309	308835	501643	715402	A001307
150337	327451	544359	730951	A006478
166549	341322	563499	749343	A010022

The A prefixed to a drawn number indicates it is plus a million.

The Fifty Numbers in respect of this week will be announced in our next issue (published on December 31st).

Why run risks by dealing with firms of mushroom growth and doubtful reputations when you can send your business to

H. HAMILTON & CO.,

BINNINGEN, SWITZERLAND?

The Oldest Established Football Accountants in the World.

Send a post card (postage 1d. for the most liberal price list issued. But no need to wait for coupons, write your commissions on plain paper.

"John Bull" for Dec. 21st, 1912, says—Messrs. H. Hamilton & Co. are one of the leading Football Accountants on the Continent, and are thoroughly reliable.

Our "Football Annual," containing several new features will be sent free on mentioning this paper.

DON'T MISS THIS!!

£700 Football Comp... GUARANTEED.

This magnificent sum is offered on the First Round of the Football Cup.

£500 for 10 Correct Results.

£200 „ 9 „ „

15 Chan...

A.

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3, St. Th... don Bridge, S.E.

2, Gay ... gh, and Lucerne.

JOE ... NR., BINNINGEN. SWITZERLAND.

The A... f Football Agents.

£25,000 ... Clients last Season

MOST L... END POSTCARD, 1d.

£100 F... EE. £100 FREE.

MARY BULL.

EVERY FRIDAY. PRICE ONE PENNY.

JOHN BULL PEN COUPON. Value 1d.

By sending this Coupon with P.O. 2/6 and loose 1d. stamp for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a John Bull Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen. Additional Coupons up to 12 from "John Bull" or "Mary Bull," any dates, may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 1d. off the price. You may send 13 Coupons, and P.O. for 1/6 only and loose 1d. stamp for postage. Address Pen Dept. "... B..." Long Acre, London, W.C. **Dec. 27, 1913**

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

CLEMAK Safety Razor

—says
Father Christmas

"MINE'S the seeing eye, the understanding heart. I know what's good for them and what they'd like. There's not a man who shaves who doesn't need a CLEMAK. There's not a man who shaves who wouldn't be better tempered for having one. No one gets cross with a CLEMAK. It's sheer delight from first till last. Nothing to do but to lather one's face and shave. And it's all done in a couple of minutes. Then another minute sees the Razor cleaned, stropped, and away. So simple—*and such a fine shave.* Skin smooth as velvet. That's why I say, 'Give him a CLEMAK.' You *cannot get a better razor* or choose a more useful gift whatever price you pay."

Clemak Razor and Seven Blades **5/-**

Combination Outfit, Stropping Machine, Hide Strop, with Clemak and Twelve Blades **10/6**

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